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County Borough of West Bromwich



# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of  
West Bromwich

FOR

1957



COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st December, 1957

HUGH BRYANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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(as at 31st December, 1957)

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Deputy Chairman: Councillor J. W. HUBBARD

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Alderman A. GREEN

Councillor P. H. LUGG

Councillor H. A. BEVAN

Councillor MRS. L. PECKOVER

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Councillor F. G. PHILLIPS

Councillor T. A. DEAKIN

Councillor R. M. RABONE

Councillor N. FLETCHER

Councillor MRS. J. SCOTT

Councillor G. HAWKINS

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F. R. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

MR. L. H. TIMMINS

W. E. WIMBERGER, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (to 30.7.57)

JOHN O. ROBINS, F.H.A., F.I.A.C. (from October, 1957)

## MENTAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

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Alderman A. GREEN

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SWITHENBANK

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Councillor J. WENLOCK

## WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Councillor J. WENLOCK

### CO-OPTED MEMBERS

MRS. A. CROSS

MRS. A. LEADBROOK

MRS. E. E. PHILLIPS

# PRINCIPAL STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

at 31st December, 1957

## MEDICAL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND CHIEF WELFARE OFFICER	...	J. F. SKONE, M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.I.H. (to 2.4.57)
		H. O. M. BRYANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1.5.57)
DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	... ..	MARGARET A. SHIELDS, M.B., Ch.B.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH	... ..	MARION HOMMERS, M.B., Ch.B.
		JOYCE D. WAYE, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst. R.C.O.G., D.C.H. (from 7.1.57)
	PART-TIME	... R. LINDOP, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
CHEST PHYSICIAN (PART-TIME)	...	C. W. D. COLE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
MEDICAL SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES (PART-TIME)	... ..	G. E. E. USHER SOMERS, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER		J. G. POTTER, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

Dental Officers give one session a week to services for mothers and young children.

## HYGIENE AND CLEANSING

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT	S. CAYTON, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.F., A.M.Inst.P.C.
DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	... .. G. H. SHAW, Sanitary Inspector's Cer- tificate, Royal Society of Health; Meat and Food Inspector's Certifi- cate, Royal Society of Health

On the 31st December there was one specialist public health inspector engaged in housing inspection, two in food inspection and two in air pollution. There was also one district inspector and three pupils.

## NURSING SERVICES

CHIEF NURSING OFFICER	... .. MISS E. A. ROBERTS, S.C.M., S.R.N., H.V. Certificate
DEPUTY CHIEF NURSING OFFICER	MISS M. E. GREASLEY, S.C.M., S.R.N., H.V. Certificate

On the 31st December there were 12 health visitors giving 7/11ths of their time to this service and the remainder to the School Health Service. There were, in addition, two full-time tuberculosis visitors, two student health visitors and one health nurse.

The District Nursing Service consisted of an equivalent of 8 7/11ths full-time nursing staff.

There were eleven municipal midwives.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

CHIEF CLERK      ...      ...      ...      A. SHAW

There were 14 members of the clerical staff.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER (PART-  
TIME)      ...      ...      ...      W. D. FODEN (to 1.12.57)

There were, in addition, a mental health social worker engaged in the after-care of the mentally ill, and a mental health officer engaged in the care of mental defectives in the community.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

HOME HELP ORGANISER      ...      ...      MRS. J. M. DAY

On the 31st December there was a total of 50 home helps being equivalent in terms of full-time service to 30 full-time home helps.

## WELFARE SERVICES

There were at the end of the year two welfare officers and two occupational therapists in this service.

## OUTSIDE ESTABLISHMENTS

OCCUPATION CENTRE,      ...      ...      "The Crest,"  
Churchfields,  
West Bromwich  
SUPERVISOR: MISS D. BLAKE

## HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

"Beech Holme,"      ...      ...      WARDENS: MR. & MRS. C. PLANT  
53, Beeches Road,  
West Bromwich

"The Hawthorns,"      ...      ...      WARDEN: MISS F. WYATT  
Green Lane,  
Great Barr

"Lyndon House,"      ...      ...      WARDENS: MR. & MRS. S. FILDES  
Lyndon,  
West Bromwich

"Greenside House,"      ...      ...      SUPERINTENDENT & MATRON:  
Greenside Way,  
Yew Tree Estate  
MR. & MRS. G. MEDLEY



## FOREWORD

*"Nature imposes a general altruistic condition that individuals of a race must be helpful to each other in the struggle which they severally wage for survival."*

— SIR JOHN SIMON (1816-1904)

This is my first annual report as Medical Officer of Health but covers the period January to May, 1957, during which my predecessor, Dr. J. F. Skone, was in office. I should like to thank him for the help and advice he gave me during the first few months I was here. The report has been divided into sections roughly corresponding to the main interests of the work of the Medical Officer of Health and the opportunity has been taken of reporting on all the services which come under my supervision.

In general the year has not been one of great change. Due to financial stringency no large new services have been started but the opportunity has been taken to strengthen and consolidate those in existence.

As much of the work of a modern health department is concerned with the problems of individuals, a considerable strain can fall on the resources of tact and courtesy of the staff. Necessarily there are also short bursts of great activity set against the constant background of routine work, not perhaps very exciting but vital to the maintenance of the public health. I would like, therefore, to start by paying tribute to the loyalty and hard work of the members of the staff, who very quickly gave me strong support in all the various activities.

### Statistical Information

The 1957 population figures show a considerable increase, much greater than the natural increase of births over deaths and due to an influx in population. In common with much of the Midland conurbation, the age structure of the population shows a smaller number of elderly persons than would be expected from the national age structure as a whole.

The infant mortality rate is slightly above the national average but would appear to be reasonably stable, the majority of infant deaths occurring in the first week of life. In common with the rest of the country, the still-birth and perinatal rates remain fairly constant and it is obvious that any further great saving in infant life will come as a result of research into the hazards occurring at or about the time of birth.

### Local Health Services

The midwifery service and the ante-natal clinics continue to cause concern. Both are small services providing for an essential need and by their very size and nature are most seriously dislocated by sickness among the staff. The whole of the arrangements dealing with expectant mothers under the National Health Service, though in

practice working well, need administrative revision. This is probably one of the faults of the National Health Service. Emphasis has been laid on co-operation between doctor, midwife and hospital, but even so the planning and policy control of this service is still divided between three administrative bodies. In my opinion the local health authority has two great interests in midwifery, first that of securing that adequate and proper ante-natal care is given to mothers who will be confined at home with municipal midwives in attendance, and secondly, seeing that adequate arrangements exist for every expectant mother to have the opportunity of learning about childbirth and child care. The classes in relaxation which have been held at Hill Top Clinic are a timely improvement in the facilities for the preparation of childbirth at home.

The priority dental service for mothers and young children is but a token service due to the national difficulty in recruiting local authority dentists. It is useless to pretend that with the present shortage this service is doing anything of great value to the community at large, although it is assisting what individuals it can.

The infant welfare centres are well patronised and full to overflowing, but most of the attendances are of mothers with young babies and very little routine examination of children between the ages of one and five years old is carried out. The problem of getting mothers of children of this age to attend is found all over the country, but it must be emphasised that regular attendance is of the greatest value in the care of young children to ensure that deviations from normal development are found early and where possible corrected. The aim of these clinics is to see that a child when entering school is fit and in a proper condition to gain the full advantage and pleasure from its education and to prevent the onset of ill-health or disability due to remedial disorders in early childhood. However efficient and well patronised the infant welfare clinics may be, they can never take the place of individual visiting at home of newly born infants and young children by health visitors. The service may seem undramatic but it is the parent who is not willing to attend the clinic who very often needs help and it is unfortunate to record a fall in the number of visits by health visitors to infants in their own homes. This fall has been due to an increase in their other duties, particularly matters of immunisation. Unfortunately, health visitors are not easy to recruit for work in urban areas, and although West Bromwich has been very fortunate there is still a need for additional staff.

The district nurses carry out an essential function but have a most inadequate building from which to work; in particular there is need for a proper room for the preparation of their equipment and it is hoped that this will be provided under a scheme already known to the Health Committee.

The advent of vaccination against poliomyelitis was expected to cause a great increase in work. Unfortunately supplies of vaccine in 1957 did not come up to expectations and the main volume of work fell after the end of the year. Bearing in mind the magnitude of the problem the arrangements on the whole have been very satisfactory, but it was most unfortunate that due to difficulties with



supplies of vaccine this matter was bedevilled by sudden alterations of policy made nationally, which caused some confusion in the minds of the public and made local administration more difficult.

The demands on the ambulance service appear to have reached their peak. Arrangements were made for the supply of oxygen in consultation with the local Medical Committee and work was commenced on the overhauling of the procedure for dealing with major accidents. This latter is no small task, for neighbouring local authorities, hospitals, police and fire brigade authorities are all involved and the evidence from a series of recent catastrophies in other areas will of necessity modify the existing arrangements.

The Home Help Service does not yet appear to have reached its maximum and as the population ages and with the difficulty of admission to chronic sick beds no doubt the demand for this service will increase. It is a curious anomaly that to be sick in hospital involves no immediate charge to the patient, but to be sick at home may be expensive due to charges for the home help service.

The publication of the report on mental illness and mental deficiency was a landmark in the history of local authority services in this field. The recommendation of the greatest importance to local authorities is probably the following :—

“There should be a general re-orientation away from institutional care in its present form and towards community care, resulting in an expansion of the local authority services.”

This leaves much to be done. The first step was taken by the appointment of a full-time Mental Health Officer/Duly Authorised Officer who was given duties of general co-ordination of the work of the other two field workers and the Occupation Centre. A good deal of thought and experiment will be needed during the next few years to enable a full mental health service to be developed on the lines suggested.

The Occupation Centre has passed through an unfortunate period due to the sickness of the supervisor and her final retirement on medical grounds. A new supervisor was appointed and plans made to start work with adult defectives. Plans were also made for the opening of a hostel for mental defectives when the appropriate permission to proceed is received.

## Infectious Diseases

The only occurrence of note in this field was the epidemic of influenza which spread over the whole country and affected West Bromwich in September. Fortunately the particular influenza virus concerned was one which caused a mild disease in most cases and although some deaths did occur, on the whole the disease was more of a nuisance than a danger.

On a smaller scale, but worrying at the time, was an outbreak of tuberculosis at the Grammar School, which fortunately came to light at a fairly early stage and proved amenable to the preventive measures applied.

## Welfare Services

Services for the welfare of the handicapped and elderly have probably shown more expansion than any other part of the work. The new home for elderly persons was opened at Greenside House, providing a further 42 beds and relieving the problem of accommodation except for that of the frail. A great deal more attention was paid to the need for entertainment of the residents of the Homes and this culminated at the end of the year in an excellent Christmas Party.

There is much that could be done in the general welfare of the community, particularly in regard to the aged, but the powers of the local authority under the National Assistance Act are rather small. The whole problem of elderly persons at home is most perplexing. I have an impression that the existing social services, both voluntary and statutory, are concentrating their efforts on a small group of people and that elsewhere there must be others in equal need of help who for various reasons have not come to notice. It is difficult to see how this can be corrected for the onset of old age is not in itself an indication of a need for social help and any form of enquiry, systematic visiting, or notification would be repugnant, both to those undertaking it and to those who wish and are entitled to live their own lives without interference, however benevolent. The deployment of these services therefore depends on information received from kindly persons who in the course of their daily work or social recreation come across cases of need and bring them to the notice of the department.

The shortage of beds in hospitals for elderly patients persisted during the year, the provision being far below the number considered nationally desirable. Fortunately an extremely close liaison exists between the consultant physician in charge of admissions to these beds, the local authority nursing services and the local authority welfare services.

A scheme for the employment of the elderly had to be abandoned because of lack of support.

The welfare of the physically handicapped received much closer attention. An extra occupational therapist was recruited and an expansion of the classes for the physically handicapped was successfully carried out. Unfortunately the satisfactory housing of these classes still awaits the construction of a proposed centre.

A noteworthy success was the stimulation by members of the department of the formation of a club for the physically handicapped run entirely by the disabled.



The method of administration of after-care of the blind will probably be altered as a result of the change in relationship between the City of Birmingham and the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. The West Bromwich Corporation is continuing to provide its services through the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.

## Environmental Services

There are still three outstanding problems in the field of hygiene — the cleansing of the atmosphere, the elimination of unfit houses and the improvement of the standard of cleanliness in handling food.

The first two of these are being pursued with vigour. Smoke control will always be a vital problem in an industrial area as long as solid fuel is burnt and it occupies the time of two specialised public health inspectors.

The rate of elimination of unfit houses depends on the rate of construction of new properties. Slum clearance is now well under way. Although this may deal in time with the physical problem of housing, the act of rehousing does not by itself solve all the problems. Any move of a substantial section of the population results in breaking up existing patterns of social organisation. The development of new patterns takes time. It is unfortunate that the effect of rehousing may often be to break existing close bonds of friendship and resultant mutual help, and that some persons, particularly the elderly, may be left living in a new house but alone amongst many people none of whom they know. The social and emotional results of rehousing are as important as the purely physical and attempts need to be made to rehouse without breaking completely the existing social pattern.

Food hygiene in West Bromwich needs great attention for comparatively little has been done. The regular visiting of food premises by public health inspectors and the resultant gradual improvement of standards by exhortation and enforcement is of greater importance than the occasional prosecution for a fly in a cake, although the latter is necessary.

There are two new environmental hazards which have arisen in the last few years; the effects of noise and the effects of ionizing radiation. Little is done and can be done under existing statutes with regard to noise although persuasion is often successful. A good deal more work needs to be done on this subject and its effects on health. The effects of ionizing radiation are a hazard which will need meeting by extensive study and training for it cannot be too often emphasised that a man with a geiger counter achieves nothing and that it is the interpretation of the results which matters. This is a particularly difficult matter, especially as background radiation common to the whole country must be distinguished from any specific local hazard and the determination of the actual nature of the latter, the length of time the danger will exist and the most effective method of control all present scientific problems solved with difficulty even by experienced physicists. It is to be hoped that the national policy on this matter will become clearer in the near future.

## Other Services

Health Education is a most difficult task. Individual advice and help given to persons is a method used constantly, but in the field of educating the public generally I cannot but think that local authorities are still somewhat unsuccessful.

The welfare of immigrants is being catered for successfully by the Commonwealth Welfare Council for the West Midlands, a body which was set up largely at the instigation of the West Bromwich Corporation and which now employs a welfare liaison officer, with an office in the Health Department one half-day a week, to deal with the problems of individual residents of the borough.

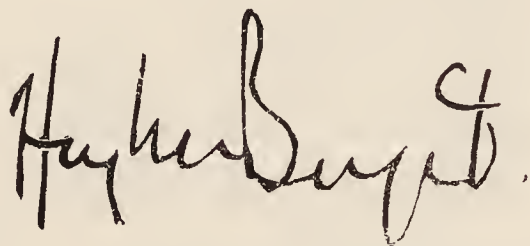
## Administration

The administrative machine of the Health Department has had many new commitments over the past few years and in my opinion, may need some revision and I look forward to the investigation by the newly appointed Organisation and Methods Officer of the Corporation. The problem of unsatisfactory accommodation causes grave concern, not entirely for the comfort of the staff but because lack of space has resulted in the use of corridors and stairs for the interviewing of members of the public and also because lack of storage space for equipment, especially the larger items of nursing equipment, has prevented a proper expansion in this field.

## Conclusion

Ten years after the National Health Service was inaugurated it is fitting to remember the quotation of Sir John Simon (a most distinguished medical officer who laid the foundations of modern public health) that the essential need is for joint effort in the struggle against disease and poverty, and to remember that although the health service is divided into three parts by law, it must of necessity function on many occasions as one unit.

In conclusion I would like to thank my medical colleagues in the town for their help, and also those many people engaged in social work of one sort or another who by their joint efforts endeavour to ameliorate the conditions of the less fortunate in the community. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Health, Hygiene and Cleansing, and Welfare Services Committees for their interest and encouragement and to the officers of the other Corporation departments for the help and co-operation they so readily give.



Medical Officer of Health  
and Chief Welfare Officer.

July, 1958.



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PART I

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Summary of Statistics

Population

Births

Deaths

Infant Mortality

Morbidity



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, 1957

### COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH

The County Borough of West Bromwich is situated in South Staffordshire and is a manufacturing town principally engaged in foundry work and allied industries.

Elevation above sea level ... ..	347 ft. to 569 ft.
Geological formation ... ..	Sandy sub-soil and prevalence of hard sandstone rock
Rainfall ... ..	25.68"
Area in acres (land and inland water) ... ..	7,172
Population (Census 1951) ... ..	87,981
„ (Estimated civilian population mid-1957) ... ..	93,050
New houses certified including flats, 1957 ... ..	612
Estimated number of houses in the Borough at the 31st December, 1957 ... ..	27,663
Rateable value at the 1st April, 1957 ... ..	£931,157
Rate at 1d. in the £ estimated to produce ... ..	£3,870
Births ... ..	1,697
Birth rate (corrected) ... ..	16.9
Stillbirths ... ..	47
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births) ... ..	27
Illegitimacy rate (per 1,000 live births) ... ..	45.4
Deaths ... ..	978
Death rate (corrected) ... ..	14.19
Average death rate over the last 10 years ... ..	10.67
Cancer death rate (per 1,000 population) ... ..	1.6
Death rate from diseases of the respiratory system ... ..	1.9
Pulmonary tuberculosis death rate ... ..	0.14
Infant mortality rate (deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) ... ..	24.2
Neonatal death rate ... ..	15.9
Perinatal death rate ... ..	39.6
Maternal death rate ... ..	1.7

### ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth rate ... ..	16.1
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births) ... ..	22.4
Death rate ... ..	11.5
Infant mortality rate ... ..	23.0



## VITAL STATISTICS

### Population

The following figures show the rise in population in the borough over the last ten years:—

1948	85,880
1949	86,770
1950	87,910
1951	87,210
1952	87,640
1953	87,960
1954	88,650
1955	89,640
1956	90,720
1957	93,050

The adult male population in this country can be classified for statistical purposes into five main groups by occupation. The numbers of each group in every thousand of the population of West Bromwich, compared with the average for England and Wales as a whole, are as follows:—

	Census 1951	
	West Bromwich	England and Wales
Professional occupations ...	18	33
Intermediate occupations ...	114	150
Skilled occupations ...	555	527
Partly skilled occupations ...	171	162
Unskilled occupations ...	142	128

### Births

There were 2,112 live births in the borough during the year, of which 1,485 were to residents of West Bromwich. In addition, 212 live births to residents of West Bromwich took place outside the borough, giving a total of 1,697 (866 males and 831 females).

Of all the births, 1,402 (or 66.4%) took place in hospital, and 710 (or 33.6%) at home.

There were 77 illegitimate births, giving an illegitimacy birth rate per 1,000 live births of 45.4.

### Stillbirths

The total number of still-births to West Bromwich residents was 47, giving a stillbirth rate of 27 per 1,000 total births.

## Deaths

There were 978 deaths of West Bromwich residents (496 males and 482 females) during the year. This gives a crude death rate per 1,000 population of 15.1. If this is corrected by use of the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General to take account of the age structure of the population in relation to that nationally, the figure is 14.19.

The following table shows the principal causes of death. It will be noticed that 60.4% of the total deaths occurred in persons aged 65 years and over.

### Summary of the Principal Causes of Death, 1957

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Cancer ...	145	127	151	154	165	128	149	132	167	160	149
Heart Diseases ...	208	184	198	256	275	199	211	221	251	229	249
Pneumonia ...	66	41	49	46	43	33	32	24	33	35	41
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases ...	115	81	113	69	96	82	107	84	115	90	117
Vascular lesions ...	98	73	112	113	103	113	121	97	124	137	128
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	59	63	66	50	39	27	27	32	30	15	13
Non-Pulmonary	10	10	10	3	6	4	6	3	2	2	3

## Deaths from Cancer

The following table gives details of the localisation of the disease, the number of deaths and the rate per cent of total deaths for certain specified sites of cancer :—

Site	Number of deaths during 1957	Rate per cent of total deaths
Stomach ...	27	2.8
Lung and bronchus ...	36	3.7
Breast ...	12	1.2
Uterus ...	8	0.8
Others ...	66	6.7
	<hr/> 149 <hr/>	<hr/> 15.2 <hr/>

## Deaths from Diseases of the Respiratory System excluding Cancer of the Lung

The following table gives the number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system in men and women during the year. The number of cases of death of West Bromwich residents from pulmonary tuberculosis was 13, giving a pulmonary tuberculosis death rate of 0.14.

Age Group	Tuberculosis: Respiratory		Influenza		Pneumonia		Bronchitis		Other diseases of respiratory system		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	3	2
1 – 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 – 14 „	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
15 – 24 „	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
25 – 44 „	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	5	5
45 – 64 „	5	1	4	—	6	8	18	8	7	2	40	19
65 – 74 „	4	—	3	2	4	4	30	7	1	2	42	15
75 years and over	—	—	1	2	5	5	12	8	9	11	27	26
Totals	11	2	12	8	20	21	61	24	17	15	121	70

## Infant Mortality

A total of 41 infants whose parents were normally resident in the borough died during the year. This gives an infant mortality rate per thousand live births of 24.0. The equivalent rate for England and Wales was 23.0. No illegitimate babies died.

The following table shows the infant deaths in age groups over the period of the last ten years:—

Year	Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total	Infant Death Rate
1947	37	17	20	16	6	96	55
1948	38	18	23	8	2	89	53
1949	31	19	24	6	3	83	49
1950	22	9	6	7	3	47	30
1951	23	7	9	3	3	45	30
1952	31	9	7	5	2	54	36
1953	22	9	7	6	1	45	30
1954	43	3	6	2	2	56	37
1955	23	4	8	—	3	38	26
1956	23	8	3	—	1	35	23
1957	27	3	5	3	3	41	24



The following table shows the infant deaths under certain selected causes during the year:—

	<i>Under 1 month</i>	<i>1—3 months</i>	<i>3—6 months</i>	<i>6—9 months</i>	<i>9—12 months</i>	<i>Total under 1 year</i>
Prematurity ...	17	—	—	—	—	17
Congenital malformations ...	8	1	1	—	1	11
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia ...	—	2	1	1	—	4
Asphyxia ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	1	—	1
Accident	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other defined diseases ...	1	—	3	—	1	5
Totals ...	27	3	5	3	3	41

### Deaths Under Four Weeks of Age

There were 27 deaths of infants under 4 weeks, giving a neonatal mortality rate of 15.9 per 1,000 live births. The following table shows the age at which death occurred during the period of the first month:—

<i>1st day</i>	<i>2nd day</i>	<i>3rd day</i>	<i>4th day</i>	<i>5th day</i>	<i>6th day</i>	<i>7th day</i>	<i>1—2 weeks</i>	<i>2—3 weeks</i>	<i>3—4 weeks</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 month</i>
15	2	1	2	1	1	—	4	—	1	27

### Perinatal Mortality

The statistical device of perinatal mortality is aimed at taking into account deaths occurring just before and just after the process of birth in an endeavour to give a total idea of the loss of infant life about the time of birth. Expressed statistically, it is as follows:—

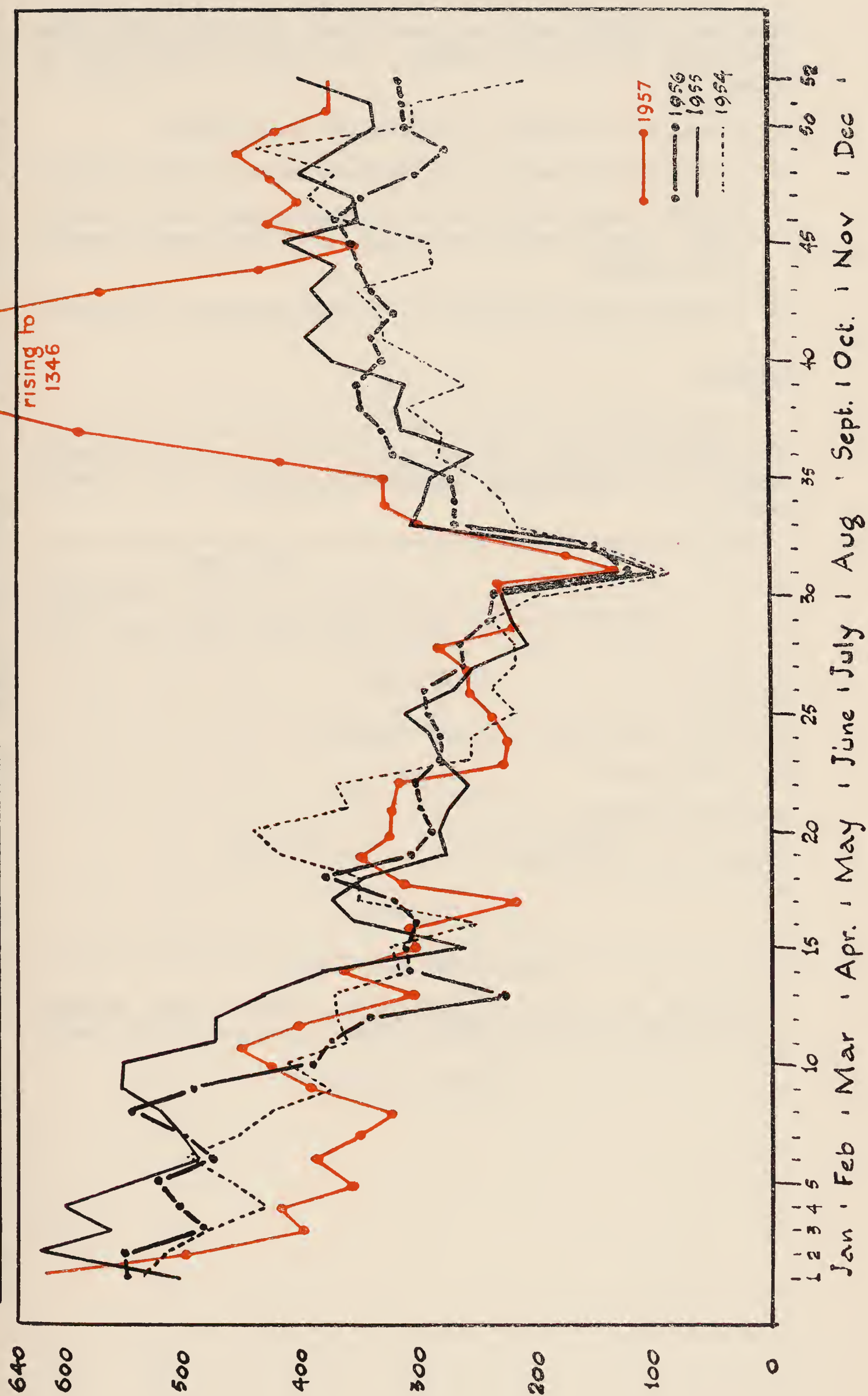
$$\frac{\text{Deaths in the first week of life} + \text{stillbirths}}{\text{Total births (both live and still)}} \times 1,000$$

The figure for West Bromwich last year was 39.6. In view of the small number of children involved, infant mortality rates are unreliable and the perinatal death rate may give a better idea of the total wastage of infant life in the borough.

### Morbidity

The graph given opposite shows the number of new claims for sickness benefit received by the Ministry of National Insurance each week during the year. The somewhat large rise in September and October is due to the influenza epidemic.

Number of New Claims for Sickness Benefit per Week (Ministry of National Insurance Returns)



# Deaths from Home Accidents

There were four deaths from accidents in the home, two of these were children under two years of age, the others being adults. Two deaths were due to asphyxia. The causes of death were as follows :—

1. Buried head in pillow of perambulator whilst asleep.
2. Asphyxiation by smoke. (Accidentally burned in a fire at home).
3. Oligaemic shock and renal failure complicating recent extensive burns. (Struck match and ignited her clothing when in kitchen at her home).
4. Toxaemia due to severe burns. (Clothing ignited in her home).

# Suicide

Twelve deaths were due to suicide, gas poisoning accounting for the majority of cases. The age and sex of the persons concerned, together with the method employed, is shown in the following table :—

	Age Group					
	15 – 44		45 – 64		65 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Coal gas ... ..	2	—	—	4	—	1
Put head in power press ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Run over by train ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Overdose of soporifics ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia due to drowning ...	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	2	1	3	5	—	1

Of all the forms of death from violence, home accidents accounted for four deaths, road accidents eight, and suicides twelve.

PART II

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Midwifery

Health Visiting

Home Nursing

Vaccination and Immunisation

Ambulance

Care and After-Care

Home Help

Mental Health



# CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

## Ante-Natal Clinics

The Authority ran ante-natal clinics, at which post-natal examinations were also carried out, at the following centres:—

Boulton Road Infant Welfare Centre  
Friar Park Infant Welfare Centre  
Greets Green Infant Welfare Centre  
Hamstead Infant Welfare Centre  
Highfields Infant Welfare Centre  
Hill Top Infant Welfare Centre  
Stone Cross Infant Welfare Centre  
Yew Tree Infant Welfare Centre

These were staffed by nursing staff from the local authority and medical officers from the hospital service. There were 398 sessions held during the year with an average attendance of 10 patients per session. The maternity service of this country is an overlapping one with considerable criss-crossing of responsibility between hospital, local authority and general practitioner. The patients seen at the clinics were those who intended to be confined at home and whose doctors wished them to attend the clinic for ante-natal care as well as care given at surgeries. Wasserman, Kahn and Rhesus testing were carried out in every case and arrangements existed for the transfer of information to the general practitioner concerned. No special post-natal clinics were held.

## STAFF

At each clinic the following Health Department staff were in attendance:—

1 Health Visitor

1 Midwife with a Pupil Midwife on occasions

A medical officer from the hospital attended.

## ATTENDANCES

New bookings	...	...	...	...	700
Return visits	...	...	...	...	3,204
Post-natal visits	...	...	...	...	77
Total					3,981

## RELAXATION CLASSES AND INSTRUCTION IN CHILD BIRTH

A relaxation class was started in April at the Hill Top Centre. Mothers expecting their first babies were invited to attend, although one or two special cases of mothers having their second babies were included.

The class was held on Wednesday afternoon and served a large area of the town.

The Jane Madders Method was used for teaching relaxation for natural childbirth. Each course commenced with a talk on the physiology of labour and the elementary anatomy of the reproductive organs. This was found to be very essential as few mothers understood what happened during pregnancy and childbirth. A number of mothers attended for the talk only, being unable to take part in the exercises for medical reasons or because they were too far advanced in pregnancy at the time. All the mothers who have since had their babies agreed that the talk was of the greatest help, enabling them to understand the process of labour and to carry out the midwife's instructions with the minimum of anxiety. Exercises were taught at the second and succeeding classes. During the course the midwives were invited to attend and to take the class for a rehearsal of labour. They also demonstrated the working of the gas and air apparatus at least once during the course.

The first hour of the afternoon session was used for exercises and relaxation. This was followed by a cup of tea and discussion. Then came a lesson on mothercraft which included:—

A talk on baby clothes and a cutting out demonstration.

Choice of suitable clothes for mother.

The care of the breasts during pregnancy and breast feeding.

Bathing baby.

Nappy changing.

After exercising and relaxing the mothers appeared to be ready to learn and discuss matters. This is a time which could be used to greater advantage for imparting information on health, for the atmosphere is right and the mothers are free for a time from domestic responsibilities and can absorb instruction. Each mother was asked to make at least one post-natal attendance. The class has only existed for nine months and so far has taught 32 mothers.

## Infant Welfare Centres

There was no change in the pattern of infant welfare centres during the year. The centres continued to operate from the same buildings as previously, and the following table gives details of the place, day and total sessions and attendances:—

<i>Place</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Total Sessions during the year</i>	<i>Total attendances during the year</i>
Boulton Road ...	Tuesday ... Thursday ...	49 50	3,314
Friar Park ...	Wednesday ...	50	3,172
Hamstead ...	Friday ...	50	1,765
Greets Green ...	Wednesday ...	50	1,916
Highfields ...	Monday ... Thursday ...	49 50	4,680
Hill Top ...	Monday ... Thursday ...	49 50	3,595
Red House Park	Tuesday ...	49	2,467
Stone Cross ...	Tuesday ... Friday ...	49 50	3,208
Yew Tree ...	Wednesday ... Friday ...	50 50	3,263
	Totals ...	695	27,380

Each centre was staffed by health visitors and a medical officer of the Health Department staff.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough continued to be carried out at the centres.

Further details of the children attending the centres are given below :—

	<i>First Attendances</i>	<i>Subsequent Attendances</i>
Children between 0 —1 year	1,531	20,539
„ „ 1 — 2 years	18	2,249
„ „ 2 — 5 „	32	3,011

No special toddler clinics were run. Health education was carried out by the health visitors in the clinics.

## Foods and Medicaments

There is a central distribution centre open during office hours for the distribution of baby food, orange juice and cod liver oil, and supplies are also available at all infant welfare clinics in the borough.

## Dental Service

Arrangements are made for the provision of a priority dental service for mothers and young children in conjunction with the School Dental Service. At the end of the year the number of officers em-



ployed in terms of whole-time officers in this work was 0.35; the number of dental clinics in operation was two, and during the year the total number of sessions (equivalent complete half-days) devoted to maternity and child welfare patients was 173.

The following table shows the work performed by this service :—

TABLE A. Numbers provided with dental care.

	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing Treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made Dentally Fit</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ... ..	149	149	149	130
Children under five years	403	380	380	367

TABLE B. Forms of dental treatment provided.

	<i>Scaling and gum treatment</i>	<i>Fillings</i>	<i>Silver nitrate treatment</i>	<i>Crowns or inlays</i>	<i>Extractions</i>	<i>General Anaesthetics</i>	<i>Dentures Provided</i>		<i>Radiographs</i>
							<i>Full upper or lower</i>	<i>Partial upper or lower</i>	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	14	48	12	—	506	112	43	5	7
Children under five ... ..	—	23	79	—	926	408	—	—	1

Mr. J. G. Potter, L.D.S., R.F.P.S., the Principal School Dental Officer, reports as follows:—

“ This year has again seen an increase in the amount of work done for expectant and nursing mothers, and for children under school age, largely because of an improved staffing position.

Greater use was made of silver nitrate in treating the children’s teeth, its effect being to arrest decay by deposition on the affected part. The number of teeth extracted was substantially the same as last year, although a larger number of children were treated, and it is to be hoped that the extraction level has now become stabilised.

Rather more expectant and nursing mothers attended than last year, and an increase was made in every kind of treatment, with the exception of partial dentures. The number of full dentures supplied was almost three times the 1956 figure and reflects the prevailing attitude towards conservation and a past tendency towards neglect of the mouth.

Treatment has continued to be given at the weekly evening session.

I should like to thank the staff of the Public Health and School Health Departments for their kind co-operation during the year."

The present situation with regard to priority dental services is not satisfactory. The Education Committee have difficulty in recruiting dentists for the school dental service, and this difficulty, which is part of a national one, has, of course, its effect on the priority services for mothers and young children.

## Care of Unmarried Mothers

Arrangements exist with the Lichfield Diocesan Moral Welfare Association for the work of looking after unmarried mothers to be carried out by their social worker who is in close touch with workers in the Health Department. Three mothers were sent to the following maternity homes:—

The Mrs. Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton.

The Methodist Maternity Home, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester.

The Salvation Army Mothercraft Hostel, Handsworth, Birmingham.

In these cases the authority paid part of the cost of the service. None of these three girls married the putative fathers. One baby was placed with adopters living away from the area, one was taken into care, and one mother kept her child.

Miss K. M. Lavender, the Moral Welfare Worker for the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, reports as follows:—

"On the 1st January there were two girls resident in our Homes, and a further ten were admitted during the year. Two others, booked for admission, were later transferred to Homes outside the Diocese at their request. Another preferred to book for a private nursing home, and she was able to take her baby home on discharge.

During the year, 36 new cases were investigated — 35 expectant mothers and one mother and baby case.

Three bookings for admission to Homes were cancelled after all the arrangements had been completed, and eight girls refused the vacancies offered to them and were catered for through the hospital service. Two expectant mothers were admitted to Homes at Hereford and Manchester, and final plans for their babies were arranged from these Homes. One young woman returned to Ireland for the confinement.

Of the total number of new expectant mothers, 21 came within the age group of 15 to 20 years.

There have been five affiliation orders granted, and one private agreement with the putative father.



Two girls have married the fathers of their babies and one is co-habiting with the father of her child.

Eight babies were placed by the Association for adoption. Six adoptions have been legalised and others are pending. Six babies from other areas have been placed with adopters in West Bromwich and all appear to be most satisfactory.

Seven mothers decided to keep their babies.

One baby was placed in a Staffordshire County Nursery pending the mother's decision on the future of her child, and the child was later placed for adoption.

I have seen a number of expectant mothers from the Commonwealth and have tried to help or advise them. It does seem, however, that it is most difficult to help them very much. Many appear to get help from their own relatives or friends in the care of the new-born babies. I have been glad to have help and advice from the Liaison Welfare Officer who is always ready to discuss any of the problems of these people.

I am pleased to report on the case of a Jamaican girl from West Bromwich who was admitted to one of our Homes in 1956 and whose child was transferred from the Home to a Nursery, and later fostered. This young woman was accepted on trial to a General Hospital and has proved herself a suitable candidate for nursing. She is now entering on her second year of training, seems very happy in her present environment, and Matron informs me that she is doing very well."

## Family Planning

The West Bromwich Branch of the Family Planning Association continued to hold a clinic in the Highfields Infant Welfare Clinic during the year. The clinic was held once weekly on Wednesday evening.

The following is a summary of the work during the year :—

Number of clinics held during the year ...	47
Number of new patients seen during the year ... ..	225
Number of patients referred regarding sub-fertility ... ..	3

The sources and reasons for referral of cases can be summarised as follows :—

### SOURCE

Referred by medical practitioners ... ..	39
Transfers from other Family Planning Clinics	35
Referred by the nursing staff ... ..	19
Personal introduction ... ..	120
Attendance because of press publicity ...	7
Referred by Marriage Guidance Council ...	3
Other sources ... ..	2

## Ultra Violet Light Clinic

The ultra violet light clinics were held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at the Central School Clinic, and on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons at the Stone Cross Clinic.

The following table gives the number of children receiving artificial sunlight treatment during the year.

			<i>Number of children on register at 31st December</i>	<i>Number of attendances during the year</i>
Pre-school children :	Boys	...	16	292
	Girls	...	22	465
School children :	Boys	...	24	528
	Girls	...	33	804
Children referred by Chest Clinic :	Boys	...	—	—
	Girls	...	1	6
Totals			96	2,095

## Day Nurseries and Child Minders

The Council have no day nursery operating in the borough.

No applications for registration under the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948, were received during the year.

## MIDWIFERY

### General Arrangements

Mothers in labour at home were cared for by eleven midwives employed by the Council and by two midwives in private practice. The Chief Nursing Officer carried out the immediate supervision and the arranging of the work of the Health Department midwives. The Medical Supervisor of Midwives is an obstetrician who is a senior hospital medical officer. No non-medical supervisor of midwives was appointed.

Although each midwife worked in an area a good deal of flexibility was necessary to cover gaps due to illness and other absences. It was found necessary in the year to appoint a further midwife, bringing the total number of midwives to eleven.

### Distribution of Confinements

The following table shows the distribution of confinements between home and hospital over the last six years :—



Year	Confinement in:	
	Hospital	Home
1952 ... ..	820	728
1953 ... ..	822	726
1954 ... ..	871	686
1955 ... ..	767	710
1956 ... ..	834	768
1957 ... ..	1,015	719

Public demand is for confinement in hospital, but in West Bromwich there is such a demand on the number of beds available for normal midwifery at the hospital that if medical and social conditions are satisfactory confinement must take place at home. Last year 66.4% of confinements occurred in hospital and 33.6% at home.

Because of the housing shortage there is a need for admission to hospital for confinement on social grounds, probably greater than that found in many other areas. Domiciliary midwives, assisted by health visitors when necessary, make assessments of the social circumstances of persons wishing to be confined in hospital so that these may be taken into account when allocating the hospital beds to the best advantage. Much has been said about the advantages of confinement at home but public demand is still for admission to a hospital or maternity home.

## Midwives

### NUMBER OF PRACTISING MIDWIVES

The midwives who notified their intention to practice were:—

In hospital and maternity homes	...	12
In domiciliary practice	... ..	13

Eleven of the midwives in domiciliary practice were employed by the local health authority, two were engaged in private practice.

### WORK OF THE MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES

Municipal midwives attended 677 confinements. Each patient was visited twice daily for the first three days after delivery, and then daily up to the fourteenth day. Visits made by the midwives are summarised as follows:—

Ante-natal visits	... ..	3,547
Nursing visits during the puerperium and post-natal period	... ..	12,847
		<hr/> 16,394 <hr/>

All midwives employed by the local health authority are qualified to administer analgesics. The analgesic in use is the gas and air machine and as yet no arrangements have been made for the use of trichloroethylene. A gas and air mixture was administered to 423 women in labour in 1957, representing 62.5% of the total.

Gas and air machines were held by six of the midwives who have their own transport, and a further four sets were held at the Ambulance Station and were delivered as required by ambulance.

## Medical Aid

In accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board, midwives are obliged to notify certain occurrences in their practice to the local supervising authority. Medical aid was called on 180 occasions for the following reasons:—

### (a) CONDITIONS OCCURRING IN THE MOTHER

Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	...	11
Delay in first stage	...	...	2
Delay in second stage	...	...	9
Foetal heart not heard	...	...	1
Malpresentation	...	...	1
Post-partum haemorrhage	...	...	8
Premature labour	...	...	2
Pyrexia	...	...	12
Retained placenta	...	...	5
Ruptured perineum	...	...	81
Thrombosis	...	...	3
Obstructed labour	...	...	2
Inflamed breast	...	...	1
Obstetric shock	...	...	3
Phlebitis	...	...	4
Breech presentation	...	...	6
Uterine inertia	...	...	4
Poor general condition	...	...	9
High blood pressure	...	...	3
Others	...	...	11
Foetal distress	...	...	2
			— 180

### (b) CONDITIONS OCCURRING IN THE BABY

Asphyxia pallida	...	...	3
Discharging eyes	...	...	7
Malformation	...	...	5
Septic spots or rash	...	...	5
Prematurity	...	...	1
Icterus neonatorum	...	...	1
Others	...	...	12
			— 34
			214

## Emergency Obstetric Service

This service is readily available and operates from Hallam Hospital. It was called out by the municipal midwives on 26 occasions during 1957.

## Maternal Mortality

There were three maternal deaths. Two of these occurred in the Hallam Hospital and one in domiciliary practice. Details are as follows.

The first was a woman of 32, about to have her sixth baby. She was confined at home having been advised that it was most desirable for her to be admitted to hospital but resolutely refusing to accept this advice. Delivery was normal but she died from pulmonary embolism on the fifth day after delivery.

The second was a woman of 32, who died in hospital at about the fifth month of her pregnancy from congestive cardiac failure associated with hypertension and toxæmia of pregnancy.

The third, a woman of 29, who died in hospital due to cerebral embolism following thrombosis of the ovarian vein which occurred whilst she was suffering from influenzal broncho-pneumonia.

## Training in Domiciliary Midwifery

In conjunction with Sutton Coldfield Maternity Hospital five pupil midwives were trained during the year in West Bromwich for the second part of the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

## Post-Certificate Education of Midwives

The municipal midwives take turns in attending post-certificate courses organised by the Royal College of Midwives. No midwife attended a course during 1957. Hospital midwives attend under arrangements made by the hospital. Private midwives make their own arrangements. By the end of 1958 it will be necessary for all midwives who are engaged in actual practice to have had a refresher course during the five years prior to that date and arrangements are in hand for sending seven municipal midwives to refresher courses during the coming year in order to comply with this statutory instruction. In future it is most desirable that a small number is sent each year rather than so many at once.

## Staff Facilities

The staff of eleven midwives have been able to cover the work but there has been difficulty largely due to sickness. There are problems in running a small service over the whole area — the sickness of two midwives at the same time can throw a considerable strain on the remainder.



All midwives are on the telephone and arrangements exist for the payment of car allowances and for the provision of housing accommodation. At the end of the year seven midwives had cars and emergency transport from the Transport Department was available if necessary. Midwives were instructed to approach the family doctor in order to obtain his wishes in regard to arrangements for ante-natal care.

The absurd division of the responsibility for the care of expectant mothers and women in labour between the hospital, local authority and general practitioner services is one of the great drawbacks of the National Health Service and one that the Cranbrook Committee is now investigating. The local authority would appear to have two major interests: firstly to see that mothers confined at home and attended by municipal midwives receive adequate consistent ante-natal care, and secondly, to see that proper facilities exist for instruction in management of the expected baby and preparation for the impending birth.

### Cases of Potential Difficulty

In 1957 the places of confinement of special categories of expectant mothers can be summarised as follows:—

					<i>Place of confinement</i>	
					<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Home</i>
1.	Primiparae	aged	more	than		
	30 years	...	...	...	95	13
2.	Multiparae	aged	more	than		
	40 years	...	...	...	48	20
3.	Women in their fourth or					
	subsequent pregnancy	...			136	106

These mothers should whenever possible have their babies in hospital for medical reasons, but the figures show that this ideal is far from reached.

### Professional Meetings in the Maternity Service

These meetings resulted in the introduction of records passed between midwife, doctor and hospital, and a personal record kept by the individual patient.

A small sub-committee of the Local Medical Committee is considering the working of these arrangements and a further meeting of a larger body is shortly to be held under the auspices of the Hospital Management Committee.



## HEALTH VISITING

### Staff

At the end of December the staff consisted of the Chief Nursing Officer, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, eleven health visitors and one health nurse.

Health visitors perform joint duties, working both as school nurses and as health visitors. Approximately 4/11ths of their time is given to the school health service. It was not found possible to recruit student health visitors during the year although two vacancies did exist. It has not been the policy to second health visitors to any particular speciality.

No health visitor resigned and left the service during the year.

### Staff Training

No health visitor went on a refresher course during the year.

A start was made in the autumn with a series of lectures at monthly intervals in an endeavour to provoke and stimulate discussion on more recent developments in the field of nursing and preventive services.

### General Arrangements

The area of the county borough is divided into twelve districts, one health visitor being in charge of each district and working under the general supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer. In these districts the health visitors carry out the visiting of infants and young children up to the age of five and also visits to any members of the family depending on the need. There is close liaison with the hospital for the follow-up of children or elderly persons who have been discharged. An arrangement exists with the Consultant Physician in charge of wards for the chronic sick whereby he, together with the Chief Nursing Officer, visits the homes of elderly persons awaiting admission so that an assessment can be made both of the medical and the social urgency in an endeavour to use the beds to the best advantage.

### Home Visits

The health visitors' time is divided between work in clinics and home visits. Details of the latter are as follows:—

ANALYSIS OF HOME VISITS	1954	1955	1956	1957
First visits to births ... ..	1,467	1,390	1,373	1,581
Re-visits to children under 12 months ... ..	5,607	5,006	2,986	2,955
Re-visits to children aged 1-5 years ... ..	13,170	12,026	8,725	8,544
Visits to cases of infectious disease ... ..	191	229	262	98
Visits to expectant mothers	357	257	224	141
Miscellaneous ... ..	2,015	1,833	1,385	1,493
B.C.G. vaccinations ...	1,326	878	291	701
Totals ...	24,133	21,619	15,246	15,513

At the end of December the health visitors' case load of children under the age of five years was 7,597.

### **Tuberculosis Visiting**

Two tuberculosis visitors were employed and during the year paid 3,525 home visits.

### **Diabetic Clinic**

A health visitor attended the diabetic clinic held in the District Hospital and was responsible for liaison with the physician and helping to see that the patients were able to carry out the instructions given to them concerning diet.

### **Liaison with Other Agencies**

The good relationship between the health visitors and the general practitioners in the area continued. As the Medical Officer of Health is also the Chief Welfare Officer, a close liaison exists between the welfare officers and the health visitors.

The Chief Nursing Officer attends meetings of social workers convened to co-ordinate the work in connection with children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.

## HOME NURSING

### Staff

The following staff were employed at the end of the year :—

	Men	Women
Chief Nursing Officer ...	—	1
State Registered Nurses :—		
Full-time ... ..	2	5
Part time ... ..	—	2
State Enrolled Assistant Nurses	—	1

This gave an equivalent of full-time staff of 8 and 7/11ths.

None of the nurses has special training in home nursing.

### General Arrangements

The district nurses work under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer who allocates and organises their duties. Requests for nursing assistance are made by general practitioners to the Chief Nursing Officer and arrangements are also made for the continuation of treatment after a patient's discharge from hospital. The nurses carry out the instructions of the family doctors regarding treatment. Evening calls are covered by a rota of nurses so that one is available. Calls in an emergency at night are arranged through the Ambulance Department who provide the necessary transport. Three cars are available for the transport of district nurses on their rounds.

### Cases Nursed

The following table shows the average number of nurses employed, the number of visits and the number of new cases over each of the past five years.

Year	Average number of nurses employed	No. of new cases	Total No. of visits
1953	7	651	27,113
1954	7	669	30,352
1955	7	840	32,353
1956	7½	766	33,621
1957	8½	619	32,577

Of the 811 patients nursed during 1957, 742 were sent by general practitioners, 28 by the Chest Clinic, 39 by hospital, and two were transferred from another area.

15,996 visits were paid to patients over the age of 65 years compared with one to a patient aged less than five years.



The work carried out month by month was as follows :—

Month	Number of patients being nursed at the beginning of month	New cases	Number of patients being nursed at end of month	Nursing visits
January ...	192	52	167	3,015
February ...	167	49	175	2,445
March ...	175	45	182	2,692
April ...	182	48	181	2,484
May ...	181	59	180	3,128
June ...	180	34	182	2,457
July ...	182	54	172	2,798
August ...	172	48	175	2,624
September	175	46	189	2,586
October ...	189	54	176	2,770
November	176	67	166	2,830
December...	166	65	188	2,748

These figures show that the routine of work varied little during the year although traditionally the first quarter is the heaviest.

### Classification of Work

The figures in the following table show the number of cases of each specified disease each month. As many cases may continue over into the next month the addition of the figures for individual diseases does not represent the total number of cases of that disease during the year. The value of this table lies in the fact that it gives a picture of the type of case nursed by the district nurses. Predominantly this is general nursing care with a large number of injections.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Abortion ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscess ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Anterior sclerosis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Breast abscess ...	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Bronchitis ...	4	2	—	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2
Burns ...	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	1	2
Cardiac disease ...	6	4	8	7	7	6	6	4	2	5	5	5
Carcinomatosis ...	7	7	11	11	8	7	8	11	8	9	10	8
Catheterization ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebral haemorrhage	3	3	2	2	5	1	1	1	1	7	5	8
Diabetes ...	35	35	36	33	25	36	34	38	34	37	38	34
Disseminated sclerosis	2	2	3	3	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	3
Enemata ...	15	15	8	17	13	7	14	12	17	13	10	15
Eczema ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fracture ...	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	3
Gangrene ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
General care ..	70	43	39	46	62	48	54	38	46	51	56	41
Hemiplegia ..	8	9	6	8	11	9	10	9	11	12	10	14
Hydrocephalus ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—
Intramuscular injections	40	40	49	43	38	34	42	41	43	35	38	44
Parkinson's disease	11	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	1
Pneumonia ...	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1
Phlebitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post operative ...	3	6	6	11	9	7	7	5	5	5	5	6
Senile ...	1	8	8	7	7	8	8	6	6	6	7	6
Septic conditions	4	2	6	4	8	5	7	8	5	7	7	8
Tuberculosis ...	9	12	10	11	14	10	8	13	12	14	12	11
Varicose ulcers ...	10	12	12	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	10	9

## Nursing Equipment

A stock of nursing equipment is maintained in the department for use by patients who require it and who are being nursed at home. Details of the number of items lent under this scheme are given elsewhere in this report.

## Relief of Pressure on Hospitals

I am asked specially to comment on the effect of the District Nursing Service in relieving pressure on hospital accommodation but it is extremely difficult to give but a general opinion.

It is not possible to give definite evidence of the number of persons who would have required hospital admission were it not for the district nursing service. The fact that 49% of visits were to persons over the age of 65 indicates that the major part of any relief given was to wards catering for chronic sick geriatric patients. Pressure on hospital geriatric beds is such that if it is at all possible to retain a patient at home by the use of home helps and district nurses this must be done. Although it is only an impression it is true that the absence of district nursing facilities would throw a further immense burden on hospital accommodation for the elderly sick.

## Training of District Nurses

It will be noticed that none of the district nursing staff of the authority is particularly trained in district nursing. There are no arrangements in West Bromwich for such training to be carried out.

The district nurses work from the School Clinic, Lombard Street West, but there are no special facilities there to enable their equipment to be prepared under ideal conditions. The growth in importance of this service means that thought must be given to the improvement of facilities for preparing their equipment and sterilizing instruments.



# VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

## Vaccination Against Smallpox

Vaccination of infants against smallpox is carried out at the infant welfare centres or by general practitioners. The number of primary vaccinations in children under five years of age is shown in the following table. The figures for 1957 include 229 infants vaccinated by family doctors.

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Number vaccinated (primary)	457	18	17	24	37	553
Number re-vaccinated	—	—	1	9	97	107

Constant propaganda for vaccination was carried out by the health visitors at their domiciliary visits and at the infant welfare centres, but the number of infants vaccinated was very small in relation to the total number of births. The following table shows the number of infants under one year of age vaccinated over the last ten years:—

Year	No. of children vaccinated under 1 year
1948	81 (from 5th July, 1948)
1949	151
1950	190
1951	325
1952	251
1953	264
1954	234
1955	368
1956	499
1957	457

The number of births in 1957 was 1,697 yet the number of infants vaccinated was 457, representing 27% of the births. This means that the protection of the child population given by vaccination against smallpox is at a low level. In the event of a smallpox outbreak this could be serious. Doubtless at such a time there would be a large demand for vaccination and many of these will be done on persons previously unvaccinated and of mature age, with the corresponding number of sore arms and absences from work. This will make a great demand on the medical services already committed heavily in dealing with actual contacts of the case.

Infant vaccination remains one of the safest protective measures, with least inconvenience. It is unfortunate that the public do not take more advantage of it.

## Immunisation Against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Vaccination

In July, 1957, the procedure for immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough was altered as a result of a letter from the Ministry of Health drawing attention to the risk of provoked poliomyelitis with combined antigens. The present procedure in local authority clinics for protective vaccinations and inoculations is as follows:—

Vaccination against whooping cough	...	...	...	2, 3, and 4 months of age
Vaccination against smallpox				5 months of age
Immunisation against diphtheria	...	...	...	6 or 7 months of age
Booster doses	...	...	...	5 or 6 years of age

A total of 951 infants was given primary injections during the year, and a total of 992 reinforcement injections was given to school children. The following table shows diphtheria immunisation in relation to the child population:—

Age Groups	Percentage of mid-year population completely immunised		
Under 1 year	...	...	10.3
Aged 1 – 4 years	...	...	61.3
Aged 5 – 14 years	...	...	61.4
Total under 15 years	...	...	57.7

The following table shows the source of immunisation:—

	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria Immunisation only	Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	Reinforcing Injections (Diphtheria only and Whooping Cough and Diphtheria combined)
No. of children immunised at Infant Welfare Centres	157	250	531	970
No. of children immunised in schools ...	—	235	—	976
No. of children immunised by general practitioners for whom a record card was received in the Health Department ...	—	54	229	85
Totals ...	157	539	750	2,031

The following table shows the immunity index which is an expression of the number of children immunised in relation to the mid-year population in the same age group :—

Year	Under 1 year	1 – 4 years	5 – 14 years	0 – 14 years
1953	2.1	53.6	33.4	36.2
1954	2.7	51.5	35.4	37.6
1955	11.5	51.6	44.1	43.9
1956	15.6	55.0	65.2	59.4
1957	10.3	61.3	61.4	57.7

### DANGER OF DIPHTHERIA

The pattern of diphtheria has completely changed in this country and the disease is now uncommon in county boroughs. More and more isolated cases are becoming apparent without the suggestion of an epidemic spread, but the cases that do occur are still as virulent and fatal as ever. Although the disease is not often seen, it is still a danger and has not yet been completely eliminated.

### Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis

The following table shows the number of children in each age group who were vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year :—

Age Group	Number of children vaccinated	
6 months to 4 years	...	402
5 years to 15 years	...	2,125
Total	...	2,527
Number of children who had received only one injection		
...	...	420

In the late spring a limited amount of British vaccine was available but in the autumn it became evident that supplies of imported Salk vaccine from Canada and the United States of America would shortly be available. Arrangements were made for registrations for vaccination against poliomyelitis to be recorded by general practitioners so that the general practitioner, if he so desired, was in a position to offer this immunisation to his patients with the minimum of administrative difficulty apart from that caused by the irregular delivery and insufficient supplies.



## B.C.G. Vaccination

B.C.G. vaccination was offered to children who reached the age of 13 years.

Due to the influenza epidemic two schools were missed from the programme, and due to an outbreak of tuberculosis in the Grammar School pupils there were not offered the treatment. These will have to be included in next year's programme.

Of the 943 children eligible, 727 (77%) accepted. Of these, 681 children received the first skin test and 155 were found to be positive, i.e., they had already come into contact with tuberculous infection. This gives a positive skin test rate of 23%. All children with positive skin tests were offered an X-ray at a Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, but only in four cases was any abnormality found. In one girl and two boys evidence of old healed primary foci of infection were visible on X-ray. In one boy there was evidence of old infection with a thickened pleura. He was kept under observation at the Chest Clinic.

All children with negative skin tests were offered B.C.G. vaccination. A total of 525 children accepted and no untoward reactions occurred. The vaccine was given by medical officers of the Health Department staff experienced in its use. All the children vaccinated were given a further skin test and were found to have acquired protection against tuberculosis.

The following table gives details of vaccination, school by school.

B.C.G. VACCINATION TABLE

	All Saints		Secondary Technical		Charlemont		Grammar		Hill Top		George Salter		Spon Lane		Bratt St. & St. Michael's		Churchfields		Total
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	
Nominal Roll ...	30	44	97	94	107	127	—	—	115	133	—	—	—	—	16	14	80	86	943
Total of Acceptances ...	21	32	82	77	97	96	—	—	80	104	—	—	—	—	7	10	55	66	727
Total 1st Mantoux test ...	21	32	82	77	89	65	—	—	73	104	—	—	—	—	7	10	55	66	681
Total Positives ...	7	10	19	18	23	16	—	—	15	21	—	—	—	—	4	2	5	15	155
Absentees ...	—	—	—	—	8	30	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46
Total given B.C.G.	14	22	63	59	65	49	—	—	58	83	—	—	—	—	3	8	50	51	525
Mantoux Conversion Injections ...	14	22	63	59	65	49	—	—	58	79	—	—	—	—	3	8	50	51	521

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

### General Arrangements

This service is administered and operated by the Corporation's Transport Department on behalf of the Health Committee. Ambulances are used for journeys in West Bromwich and to and from centres in the Midlands, but for more lengthy journeys arrangements are usually made with British Railways for it has been found that rail journeys are more comfortable for the patient.

### Vehicles

The vehicles in service were as follows:—

<i>Type of Vehicle</i>	<i>Placed in Service</i>	<i>Mileage, 1957/58</i>
Morris ...	18.12.39	3,884
Austin ...	1.2.46*	13
Austin ...	26.7.48†	10,174
Daimler ...	26.9.49	13,877
Morris ...	6.7.49	7,434
Daimler ...	22.1.51	12,711
Daimler ...	15.5.56	23,561
Morris ...	1.7.57	15,440

\* Ex Civil Defence vehicle

† Sitting case vehicle

The new ambulance which was brought into service on the 1st July is a four-berth type of ambulance having a Morris LC 5 chassis.

### Staff

There was an arrangement for the hospital to provide a porter to act as attendant for emergencies during the night, but the Hospital Management Committee found themselves unable to continue this and therefore it was found necessary to appoint a further ambulance driver/attendant during the year. The total staff is now 15 ambulance driver/attendants.

### Work Done

The figures below show the use of the service over the last nine years:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949	7,112	50,893
1950	7,255	54,925
1951	8,918	65,405
1952	14,354	71,088
1953	18,275	80,339
1954	19,800	83,984
1955	22,470	88,392
1956	21,305	84,215
1957	21,680	87,608



It will be seen that the demand appears to have reached its ultimate size.

The number of hospital out-patients carried in recent years is summarised in the following table :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Out-patients</i>
1949	3,300
1950	3,824
1951	5,008
1952	9,857
1953	13,548
1954	15,009
1955	16,710
1956	14,952
1957	15,062

## **Radio Control**

The Health Committee again reviewed the recommendation that radio control on ambulance fleets was a very good means of effecting further savings in the cost of the service, but in view of the financial situation towards the end of the year and the fact that no very definite evidence could be produced to the effect that in a compact county borough there would be an immense saving, the development of radio control for the ambulance fleet was not agreed to.

## **Supply of Oxygen**

In consultation with the Local Executive Council it was agreed to assist in the supply of oxygen to patients needing this in their own homes. The Executive Council through its Pharmaceutical Committee provided three oxygen sets which were placed in the ambulance station. Any doctor requiring oxygen can now telephone the ambulance station and the oxygen will be brought out by a vehicle to the patient's home. The prescription form is then forwarded to the chemist and arrangements made for the set to be replenished and made ready for further use. This service had not been used extensively but has proved very useful when needed.

## **Training of Ambulance Staff**

Members of the ambulance service staff are all members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and accordingly take revision courses and examinations in first aid at annual intervals.

## **Major Accidents**

Work has started on a complete overhaul of the arrangements made with the hospital and neighbouring authorities for dealing with a major catastrophe. This seems desirable in view of the experience gained by other authorities in recent disasters.

## CARE AND AFTER-CARE

### Convalescence

Patients are sent for convalescence on the recommendation of their own doctors. They contribute towards the cost according to their means. The demands on this valuable service continued and recuperative holidays were arranged for 58 adults and 8 children during 1957. Most of the patients were accommodated in convalescent homes by the sea.

In addition to convalescent home fees, travelling expenses were paid in respect of 57 patients.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) General practitioners	...	...	62
(b) Hospital:			
Physicians and surgeons	...	...	4
			—
Total	...		66
			—

### AGE GROUP OF PATIENTS

Under 21 years	...	...	...	...	8
21 – 44 years	...	...	...	...	14
45 – 64 years	...	...	...	...	35
Over 65 years	...	...	...	...	9
					—
Total	...				66
					—

### DETAILS OF ACCOMMODATION:

<i>Convalescent Homes</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children under 16 years</i>
Rest Haven, Exmouth ... ..	10	21	—
Victoria, Clevedon ... ..	4	—	—
Belmont, Clevedon ... ..	—	5	—
West Hill, Southport ... ..	3	7	—
Bell Memorial Home, Lancing ...	—	6	—
The Gables, Droitwich ... ..	—	1	—
St. Luke's, Torquay ... ..	2	—	—
St. Raphael's, Torquay ... ..	—	2	—
Surrey Convalescent Home for Men, Seaford ... ..	1	—	—
“ Tanllwyfan ” Children's Convalescent Home, Colwyn Bay	—	—	4
	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	20	42	4
	—	—	—

# Types of Illness

A broad classification of the types of conditions for which convalescence was recommended is as follows:—

Post operative	...	...	...	...	18
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	18
Cardio-vascular	...	...	...	...	2
Gastro-intestinal	...	...	...	...	6
Nervous	...	...	...	...	14
Others	...	...	...	...	8

## LOAN OF EQUIPMENT

Stocks of nursing equipment for use in patients' homes are held by the Department. These articles are lent on the recommendation of a general practitioner or district nurse. On return they are disinfected where necessary and thoroughly cleansed.

The following types of equipment were available for use during the year:—

- Air rings
- Back rests
- Bed cradles
- Bedpans — crock
- "          rubber
- Bed mirror
- Bedsteads
- Commode chairs
- Feeding cups
- Head poles and chains
- House chair
- Mattresses
- Spinal carriage
- Spinal support
- Sputum cups
- Urinals
- Urinal bags
- Wheel chairs
- Waterproof sheets

This is a service which might usefully be expanded, particularly in relation to lifting equipment and wheel chairs. The greatest difficulty at present encountered is storing the equipment, especially the larger articles, in an already crowded department.



## HOME HELP SERVICE

### General Arrangements

Home Helps are available to meet the needs of those residents of the town who for various reasons are unable, either temporarily or permanently, to manage their own housework and who need help to make life at home bearable. The number of patients helped has shown a gradual increase since 1951 and the ratio of maternity cases to the aged and chronic sick, which in that year was 1 to 2.8, by 1957 had become 1 to 5.4. The following table shows the number of cases in each of these categories helped during the last seven years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Aged and Chronic Sick</i>
1951	52	144
1952	60	187
1953	59	195
1954	43	225
1955	27	239
1956	48	246
1957	54	293

### Staff

The Home Help Service at the end of the year was employing ten full-time staff and 40 part-time staff, together with a full-time organiser. The full-time staff generally work from 9 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. or 5.0 p.m. daily — a total of 35 to 43 hours a week. Part-time staff usually work from 9.0 a.m. to 12 noon or 1.0 p.m. daily, but a number are available for afternoon work when required.

### Persons Helped

During the year a total of 198 new patients was given help for the first time. Of these, 107 were chronic sick, 52 maternity cases, and 2 cases of tuberculosis.

A classification of persons helped over the past few years is shown in the following table :—

	1955	1956	1957
Confinements at home ... ..	26	42	44
Other maternity cases ... ..	4	6	10
Aged and chronically sick ... ..	229	246	293
Tuberculosis ... ..	8	10	8
Problem families ... ..	2	3	4
Others including acute illness ...	51	35	38
Totals ...	320	342	397

A total of 142 patients received continuous help throughout the year. The long-term cases (those of more than three months' duration) remaining on the books at the end of 1957, can be classified as follows :—

Chronic sick under 65	...	...	35
„ „ over 65	...	...	165
Tuberculosis	...	...	6
Child care	...	...	1
Mental health	...	...	2
Maternity	...	...	1
Problem families	...	...	4

## Charges for the Service

The number of patients receiving help paid as follows :—

Full payment (3/7d. per hour)	...	...	54
Part payment	...	...	333
No payment (including four problem families)	...	...	10

The patients paying full cost were as follows :—

Maternity	...	...	23
Short term	...	...	14
Chronic	...	...	16
Tuberculosis	...	...	1

## Night Attendant Service

This service is designed to provide attendance at night for cases of illness and emergency when other arrangements cannot be made. It is to meet urgent needs and the number of patients to whom it is supplied is happily never large. During the year two persons were willing to do this work and they dealt with 14 cases for the following reasons :—

Acute illness :				1956	1957
	Heart disease	...	...	—	1
	Pneumonia	...	...	1	—
	Bronchitis	...	...	1	—
Awaiting admission to hospital :					
	Stroke	...	...	1	1
	Heart disease	...	...	1	3
	Senility	...	...	2	3
Chronic sick :					
	Carcinoma	...	...	1	1
	Senility	...	...	1	1
	Heart disease	...	...	5	4
	Stroke	...	...	2	—

This service is a small one but one which provides considerable comfort and help to people often seriously ill who would otherwise have been left alone at night.

## Home Help Washing Service

This service provides for the laundering of articles from homes where the home help is visiting. The laundry work is undertaken at the Hallam Hospital, and the articles are brought to the Health Department in plastic bags. There is a field here for expansion of the service but it is not extremely popular with the home helps themselves in view of the fact that the articles need to be transported by them and consequently it is not used to the full.



# MENTAL HEALTH

## General Arrangements

The Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee is composed of seven members of the Council and one co-opted member and meets monthly. Provision is made for dealing with the admission of mentally ill patients to hospital and for the community care and occupation of the mental defective. Workers are also employed to undertake the after-care work in connection with persons discharged from mental hospitals.

The continuing shortage of accommodation in mental hospitals underlines the need for an effective community mental health service, not merely as a temporary measure but as a permanently established service. Such a service working in harmony with the hospitals can be of great assistance to patients and in many cases can avert the need for admission.

The outstanding event in 1957 was the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on "Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency" and although during the year this has not had a major effect on local authority services, it has stimulated those working in the services and responsible for them to think of the wider aspects of community care and of the opportunity which now lies ahead for local authorities to play their part in tackling this field of preventive medicine. No doubt when the report has been digested, changes will occur in the pattern of care for these patients.

## Staff

The Medical Officer of Health and his Deputy are responsible for the administration of the service. The Medical Officer of Health and four general practitioners in the town are authorised by the Authority for the purposes of Sections 3 and 5 of the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913.

There was one duly authorised officer who during the year held a joint appointment with the County Borough of Smethwick. This arrangement came to an end on the 1st December, 1957. A full-time duly authorised officer for West Bromwich took over the duty of co-ordinating the work of officers dealing with the mentally handicapped and the mentally ill as well as taking part in general social work with these groups on the 20th January, 1958. Arrangements have also been made with the County Borough of Smethwick to provide a relief for both areas for duly authorised officers.

In addition to the duly authorised officer a mental health officer was responsible particularly for the social community care of mental defectives and a mental health social worker for the after-care of persons discharged from hospitals.

The supervisor of the Occupation Centre retired on medical grounds in May and was replaced with a qualified supervisor on the 2nd September, 1957.



## Training of Staff

Unfortunately, although the staff are experienced in the work, there have been so many changes that it was not possible to take advantage of the facilities that now exist for further training in modern attitudes and techniques towards mental illness. The health visitors, however, had the opportunity of attending a conference run by the Education Department at the Child Guidance Clinic, at which Dr. D. T. Maclay, the Consultant Child Psychiatrist, held discussions and case conferences on children with emotional and intellectual disorders.

## Co-operation with Hospitals

Co-operation with the Regional Hospital Board and the Hospital Management Committee was maintained and continues to be marked by good will.

The mental health officer prepared reports on the home circumstances of patients in mental deficiency institutions when periods of holiday at home or licence were contemplated by the hospital. She supervised patients on licence in the area of the county borough and accompanied many of the patients to and from the institutions. Good co-operation existed with the Medical Superintendent of St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr—a hospital catering for mental defectives—and he saw a number of mental defectives from the Borough at the request of the Medical Officer of Health.

The duly authorised officers endeavoured to keep in close touch with the members of the staff of mental hospitals in which patients from West Bromwich were accommodated.

## Duties Delegated to Voluntary Associations

No duty of the local health authority has been delegated to a voluntary association.

## MENTAL ILLNESS

The admission to hospital of patients suffering from mental illness was made by application to individual mental hospitals, application being made in the first place to All Saints' Hospital, Winson Green, Birmingham. Most patients in West Bromwich were accommodated at All Saints' Hospital. Unfortunately the hospital found themselves unable to take voluntary admissions of women patients due to overcrowding. As the emphasis in West Bromwich has been for some time on increasing the number of patients admitted voluntarily rather than on the use of compulsory powers this was most unfortunate and representations were made by the Committee to the Regional Hospital Board and the Ministry of Health. Gradually matters improved and a small number of voluntary patients were admitted, but with regard to women patients the position is far from satisfactory. In effect, patients with mental illness not sufficient to

warrant the use of orders, yet wishing to go, cannot easily obtain treatment and wait in the community perhaps until their condition deteriorates and an order is justified. This is a negation of the principle of voluntary early treatment.

The following table shows the figures for admission and discharges and the various categories of patients over the last six years:—

#### LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS, 1890 – 1930

*Classification on admission:*

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Certified ... ..	26	29	16	11	9	3
Temporary ... ..	—	2	—	—	—	—
Voluntary ... ..	60	55	57	65	91	44
3-day Order ... ..	3	3	12	24	55	107
7-day Urgency Order	—	8	10	9	—	—
14-day Order ... ..	2	6	8	3	4	9
Totals ... ..	91	103	103	112	159	163

The ultimate classification of these patients is shown in the following table:—

	Certi- fied	Tem- porary	Vol- untary	3-Day Order	7-Day Order	14- Day Order	Total
West Bromwich cases after initial admission became:							
a. Certified ... ..	3	—	—	7	—	—	10
b. Voluntary ... ..	—	—	44*	75	—	6	125
c. Extended order then discharged ... ..	—	—	—	7	—	1	8
d. Discharged at expira- tion of original order	—	—	—	4	—	1	5
e. Died before expiration of order ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Totals ... ..	3	—	44	95	—	9	151

\* This figure includes two persons under the age of 16 years.

Apart from these patients, 12 persons residing in the area of other local authorities were admitted to hospital from West Bromwich. All were admitted by the use of 3-day orders. This makes up the total of 163 admissions.

# DISCHARGES :

			1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Certified	...	...	18	17	14	21	29	15
3-day order	...	...	1	—	1	—	4	4
3-day order (extended)			—	—	2	4	5	8
7-day urgency order	...		—	2	3	2	—	—
14-day order	...	...	—	—	2	—	1	2
14-day order (extended)			—	—	—	—	2	1
Temporary	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—
Voluntary	...	...	49	53	62	67	104	98
Died	...	...	14	10	16	20	19	14
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...		82	82	102	114	164	142
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## PATIENTS UNDER TEMPORARY ORDERS

It will be seen that a total of 116 patients was admitted under 3-day, 7-day or 14-day orders. The fate of these is shown in the following table:—

Patients :	3-Day Order	7-Day Order	14-Day Order
(1) Died before expiration of Order	2	—	1
(2) Discharged at expiration of Order ... ..	4	—	1
(3) Discharged at expiration of extended Order ... ..	7	—	1
(4) Became voluntary patient ...	75	—	6
(5) Certified ... ..	7	—	—
Patients admitted from West Bromwich belonging to other authorities ...	12	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	107	—	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Old Age and Mental Illness

Of the patients admitted to mental hospitals during 1957, 41 were 60 years of age or more. These were admitted on the following terms:—

3-day Order	...	...	...	33
7-day Order	...	...	...	—
14-day Order	...	...	...	2
Temporary	...	...	...	—
Voluntary	...	...	...	6



The following table shows the number of patients over 60 years of age admitted to hospital over the last few years:—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Temporary (includes 3 and 14 day Orders)	2	1	—	—	4	8	17	13	35
Voluntary ... ..	7	10	7	16	13	12	12	15	6
Certified ... ..	8	18	11	5	14	5	4	7	—
Totals ...	17	29	18	21	31	25	33	35	41

The eventual classification of these patients was:—

Voluntary ... ..	38
Certified ... ..	2
Discharged at expiration of Order ...	1
	—
	41
	—

## Community Case Work

The mental health social worker is responsible to the Medical Officer of Health for the after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals and referred by the psychiatrist. She also helps with other cases of mental distress referred to her by various social agencies and from other local authority departments. Much of the work with such patients consists of dealing with the whole family and trying to bring about a better understanding of the patients' problems.

During the year the number of patients helped was as follows:—

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 20 years ...	2	—	2
20 — 29 „ ...	11	3	14
30 — 39 „ ...	10	12	22
40 — 49 „ ...	10	10	20
50 — 59 „ ...	6	8	14
60 — 69 „ ...	9	12	21
70 years and over ...	3	2	5
	—	—	—
Totals ...	51	47	98
	—	—	—

## MENTAL DEFICIENCY

### Ascertainment

Ten cases were added to the register in 1957. Of these, five were reported by the Education Committee under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944.

The details of the patients are as follows:—

				<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
				<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
				16	16	16	16
Referred by Local Education Authority ... ..				—	4	—	1
Referred by other authorities ...				4	—	1	—
				—	—	—	—
		Totals	...	4	4	1	1
				—	—	—	—

Action was taken under the Mental Deficiency Acts as follows:—

				<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
				<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
				16	16	16	16
Certified under Mental Deficiency Acts and admitted to:—							
St. Margaret's Hospital ... ..				—	—	1	—
Monyhull Hall ... ..				—	—	1	—
Lea Hall Colony ... ..				—	1	—	2
Placed under guardianship ...				—	—	1	—
Placed under statutory supervision				4	4	1	1
				—	—	—	—
		Totals	...	4	5	4	3
				—	—	—	—

The total number of cases on the register as ascertained mental defectives at the end of the year was as follows:—

				<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
				<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
				16	16	16	16
Subject to statutory supervision ...				56	40	48	75
Under guardianship order ...				—	—	1	—
Patients in hospital ... ..				85	10	91	15
Voluntary patients ... ..				3	5	9	8
Patients under friendly supervision				—	—	7	—
				—	—	—	—
		Totals	...	144	55	156	98
				—	—	—	—

In addition to these patients there were two males and eight females on licence from hospital living in West Bromwich and two cases being supervised for other local authorities.

Of the total number of cases under supervision resident in West Bromwich at the end of the year, 168 were working and 96 were not. In the case of many of those who are working supervisory visits are not necessary because these patients are socially rehabilitated. They can be regarded as successfully integrated into the community. It is the hope of the mental health staff to achieve this success with as many as possible.

## Waiting List for Hospital Accommodation

At the end of the year there were five patients from West Bromwich waiting for admission to hospitals for mental defectives. These were in the following categories of urgency:—

				<i>Under 16</i>		<i>Over 16</i>	
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Urgent cases	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
Non-urgent cases	...	...	...	1	—	1	1
				—	—	—	—
Totals				1	—	2	2
				—	—	—	—

## Short-Term Care

Assistance was given on four occasions to the relatives of defectives by arranging short-term care under the provisions of Circular 5/52 of the Ministry of Health. This provides for informal admission for a period of up to eight weeks. Of these patients, three were admitted to hospitals run by the Regional Hospital Board and one to another home.

## Occupation Centre

The Occupation Centre at "The Crest" provides 42 places for children and at the end of the year there were 38 children on the register. The ages of these were as follows:—

<i>Age</i>			<i>Number</i>
Under 16 years	...	...	28
Over 16 years	...	...	10

The staff at the 31st December consisted of:—

- One qualified supervisor
- Two assistant supervisors (not qualified)
- One general assistant
- One domestic (part-time)



Attendance at "The Crest" is voluntary. The children are recommended for attendance after discussion between their parents and a medical officer of the Authority, together with the mental health officer. The Centre passed through rather a difficult time due to the illness of the supervisor, who finally retired on medical grounds on the 16th May, 1957. A new qualified supervisor was appointed on the 2nd September, 1957.

Children are transported to and from the Centre, accompanied by a guide (one of the mothers), and all the children have their mid-day meal at the Centre, this being an essential part of the social training. The meals were provided by the School Meals Service and the standard of these was high. The charges made for the meals were similar to those made to the parents of children in special schools. The Centre was opened from Monday to Friday during school terms, and the average daily attendance was 29. The children were organised into groups and schemes of work were planned to ensure that they could make the maximum use of their limited ability. An "At Home" was held on the 11th December, 1957, at which interested persons as well as parents were able to see the work of the Centre. Twenty-nine children went to a pantomime, accompanied by members of the staff and had a most enjoyable time.

It was felt that there was a need to establish an organisation for the parents and others interested in the work of "The Crest" and accordingly "The Friends of The Crest" was launched on the 14th November, 1957. This is intended to provide interest and to spread knowledge of the work of "The Crest" among the parents and others and to provide a nucleus for the discussion of problems in general relating to mentally handicapped children. Run by its own committee with representation from the local authority, it has so far proved to be a success and its meetings have been well attended.

## Future Developments

The problem will shortly arise of providing occupation for the older age group and financial provision has been made for this to be done. This is the next step in trying to provide a proper full service.

The Council have also planned a hostel for mental defectives, but due to financial restriction it has not been possible to proceed with this.



PART III

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence and Mortality

Tuberculosis

Venereal Disease



# Incidence

There were 2,265 cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, notified or otherwise ascertained during the year. After revision of diagnosis this figure fell to 2,253.

It is time the law relating to the notifications of infectious disease was amended in the light of modern knowledge.

The following table gives the number of notifications of notifiable disease, after correction of diagnosis, during each of the last ten years :—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Diphtheria ... ..	11	7	—	3	2	7	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	19	3	10	26	3	57	109
Acute encephalitis ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric or typhoid fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	13	6	7	1	2	2	2	2	1	1
Measles ... ..	388	805	141	1796	644	373	570	994	25	1855
Meningococcal infection	1	3	1	5	4	5	7	4	3	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	3	2	1	—	1	—	2	1	1
*Pneumonia ... ..	29	36	27	25	10	9	7	21	10	34
Poliomyelitis :										
Paralytic ... ..	1	2	12	2	6	—	6	5	2	5
Non-Paralytic ... ..	—	—	3	—	3	3	—	2	2	1
Puerperal pyrexia ... ..	28	11	15	27	42	11	10	9	2	4
Scarlet fever ... ..	131	94	93	51	78	77	51	65	28	17
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ... ..	206	225	256	241	374	455	124	69	223	176
Paratyphoid fevers ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
Suspected food poisoning	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	65	33	46

\* Acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia are the only notifiable forms of the disease

# Deaths from Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the deaths attributable wholly or in part to infectious diseases during the last ten years :—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Diphtheria ... ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery and gastro-enteritis ... ..	21	20	4	6	2	2	1	2	1	—
Acute infectious encephalitis	1	2	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal meningitis	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping cough ... ..	2	6	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis :										
Pulmonary ... ..	63	66	50	39	27	27	32	30	15	13
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	10	10	3	4	4	6	3	2	2	3

## Diphtheria

For the second year there was no notification of a case of this disease.

## Dysentery

A total of 110 cases of dysentery was notified during the year, 95 of these cases being children. The disease was due to the Sonne variety of the organism, with the exception of one case, a man aged 46, in whom after death *entamoeba histolytica* was found to be the cause of his illness. He had been admitted to hospital and died there with an abscess of the liver. The organism was recovered from the wall of this abscess. Neither he nor his family or any of the relatives had been out of this country and there was no known contact with any one suffering from this disease. The man was employed as a surface worker at a colliery and had been engaged on this type of work for 20 years. In his earlier career he had worked underground. The Colliery medical officers state that the disease is not known to be common in colliery workers here and the source of infection still remains a mystery.

Most of the cases of dysentery due to the Sonne organism occurred in the first and second quarters of the year, as appears to be characteristic of this disease. The disease has become increasingly prevalent in this country in the last ten years. It is practically always mild in character and for each case with active symptoms there appear to be a number of people, usually in the immediate family, who are symptomless carriers. Some of these can remain in this state in spite of treatment for a considerable period.

There was no evidence to suggest that cases of the disease were food-borne or that there was any particularly large epidemic from one particular source. As each case became known the home was visited and advice on general hygiene given. Specimens were taken from the family contacts for examination at the public health laboratory. Particular attention was paid to persons engaged in the handling of food or the care of young children, with a view to preventing an outbreak of infection through food or in schools.

## Encephalitis

One case of acute encephalitis occurred in a boy, aged 4, who was admitted to a hospital in Birmingham. He is since reported to have made a good recovery.

## Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid Fever)

One case of typhoid fever was notified during the year. This was in a man aged 41, of Polish extraction, and the diagnosis was made after his admission to hospital. Subsequent investigations of the history of this family showed that he had been in hospital once before with an illness highly suggestive of typhoid and his mother was ultimately found to be a chronic carrier who in spite of treatment was still excreting the organism. No member of this family was



engaged in the food trade. Extensive treatment has failed to cure the condition. As the mother is well specimens are being taken at intervals and the family have agreed to notify any change of address or alteration in occupation to the Health Department.

### Erysipelas

Only one case occurred during the year.

### Measles

There was an expected increase in the number of notifications of measles, a total of 1,855 being notified. The following table shows the age groups affected:—

		<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 – 4 years</i>	<i>5 – 9 years</i>	<i>10–14 years</i>	<i>Over 14 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male	...	43	477	421	5	—	946
Female	...	41	480	382	5	1	909

This is the highest number of notifications of measles since the war, the next highest being in 1951 when 1,796 cases were notified. Most of the disease was mild in character but one boy, aged 3 years, died.

### Meningococcal Infection

This was notifiable originally as cerebro-spinal fever, the alteration to meningococcal infection taking place in 1950. Only two cases were notified during the year.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Only one case was notified. The disease was mild and recovery uneventful and complete.

### Pneumonia

A total of 36 cases of pneumonia was notified. The notification of pneumonia serves little purpose as the only forms of the disease notifiable are acute primary and influenzal pneumonia. A total of 22 cases of influenzal pneumonia was notified and further comment is made on this when discussing influenza later in this part of the report.

### Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis

Six cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the period May to November, 1957, one being non-paralytic and five paralytic.

One of these was a man of 32, who was back at full-time clerical work four months after notification although still suffering some weakness of the back and left leg and wearing a full-length caliper on the right leg.



Two were boys of 18 months, both of whom are now walking well, although one is wearing a below knee caliper on the right leg, and the other a full-length caliper on the left leg.

One girl of six years is back at school wearing a caliper on the left lower leg.

The remaining case, a little girl of 2½ years, made a perfect recovery and has no residual paralysis.

There was no recent history of inoculation or other injection in the confirmed cases and none of these had received protective vaccination against the disease.

**Puerperal Pyrexia**

Four cases were notified. None of these was severe and recovery was rapid, uneventful and complete.

**Scarlet Fever**

Seventeen cases of scarlet fever were notified and five of these were admitted to hospital.

In view of the fact that scarlet fever continues to be a mild disease and seems likely to be so, and the fact that the infection is substantially the same as that causing the common sore throat, viz., streptococcal infection, it is doubtful if notification serves any purpose. The figures in all probability do not indicate the true incidence as notification is likely to be incomplete.

**Whooping Cough**

A total of 176 cases of whooping cough occurred compared with 223 last year. There were no deaths from the disease.

The following table shows the age groups affected :—

	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 – 4 years</i>	<i>5 – 9 years</i>	<i>10 – 14 years</i>	<i>Over 14 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male ...	16	47	30	1	—	94
Female ...	6	40	33	1	2	82

**Food Poisoning**

A total of 56 cases of food poisoning was notified during the year, but after correction this figure was 46, most of the remaining 10 cases on bacteriological examination being found to suffer from Sonne dysentery.

Fortunately no major outbreak occurred during the year and all the cases were single ones with no apparent link between them. It was impossible to identify either the agent or the food responsible for any of these cases.

## Tuberculosis

I am indebted to Dr. C. W. D. Cole, Chest Physician, for the following report on tuberculosis.

“ The work of the anti-tuberculosis service situated at the Chest Clinic, Heath Lane, continued smoothly throughout the year 1957.

“ The staffing position at the Chest Clinic still remains unsatisfactory, and indeed it is a poor commentary on the conditions offered by the employing authority that a senior post such as sister-in-charge of a chest clinic, should be reported as being unfilled in two consecutive annual reports. Again the Chest Clinic has been without the services of a qualified radiographer for the year, but once again locally trained personnel have filled the requirements admirably. The clerical and tuberculosis health visiting staffs have remained unchanged.

“ Nationally the trend in tuberculosis has been for the deaths from the disease to fall slightly, whilst the number of new cases has also fallen slightly. In West Bromwich the number of deaths has risen slightly in that 20 notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (17 males and 3 females) died during the year and two more individuals suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis also died. Of these cases 13 died from pulmonary tuberculosis and two from non-pulmonary. One other death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis was also recorded. The remainder died from other causes. For the first year no child died of tuberculosis in West Bromwich. The slight rise in death is partially accounted for by the fact that 3 men died during the influenza epidemic and their deaths were probably due to influenza and not to tuberculosis. Of the remaining 14 men who died the cause of death was not discovered until post-mortem examination.

“ Once again, the primary incidence of tuberculosis was greatest amongst middle-aged men and it would appear that unexplained loss of weight and lassitude in this age group always merits an X-ray examination of the chest. The number of new primary notifications in 1957 amounted to 72 which is a fall of 27 upon the previous year. This figure can be regarded as satisfactory.

“ During the year there were two incidents which show that it should never be forgotten that tuberculosis is an infectious disease. In the first incident a middle-aged man was found to have a symptomless chronic tuberculosis involving a small area of the one lung. Upon investigation of the contacts living at the house, it was found necessary to admit to hospital for treatment of their pulmonary tuberculosis, two of his daughters and two of his grandchildren. In addition, further grandchildren were found to be suffering from a milder form of tuberculosis.



"In the second incident, a school boy attended this clinic and was found to be suffering from a particularly virulent form of tuberculosis. He was admitted to sanatorium and the Principal School Medical Officer informed. Subsequent enquiry produced the interesting fact that five new cases of tuberculosis had occurred in this school during the past five years.

"The resources of the School Health Department were mobilised and with the co-operation of the Grammar School staff, a large film chest examination was carried out upon the teaching staff, domestic staff and the pupils in that particular scholastic year. In addition, a specialised form of skin testing was carried out and as a result of these two examinations, one adult and a further three school children were admitted to hospital for treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. A further five children were also placed on restricted activities and a number of others are still subjected to Chest Clinic supervision. As a direct result of this haul it was decided to submit the rest of the pupils at this particular school to small scale X-ray examination and this produced a further case of open tuberculosis in a senior form. As a result of certain measures taken by the Principal School Medical Officer after a conference on the results so far obtained at this school, I now believe that this incident may be regarded as closed and I confidently anticipate no further trouble will occur here.

"These incidents are quoted in order to illustrate how vitally important it is to follow up the notification of a new case of tuberculosis with intelligence and by all the resources of modern medicine. It is rarely necessary to examine contacts of a case of tuberculosis beyond those who are in close contact with him, either at work or in the home, but it would be a great help if all such contacts were to submit themselves willingly and promptly to X-ray examination of the chest when asked.

"A new innovation in the Borough has been the weekly attendance of a Mass Miniature Radiography Unit behind the Town Hall. As a result of the change of venue, the number of people attending increased. I have been very disappointed, however, at the number of cases found to be suffering from tuberculosis who attended this M.M.R. Unit in the first place.

#### PREVENTION

"The preventive services have continued as before. B.C.G. vaccination is offered to all mantoux negative contacts of cases of tuberculosis and is very rarely refused. B.C.G. vaccination is also offered to the 13—14 year-old age group of mantoux negative school children. This is an excellent procedure and one which I would like to see more advantage taken of.

#### HOUSING

"The rehousing of cases suffering from certain infectious forms of tuberculosis has continued with the co-operation of the Housing Committee, and there is no doubt at all that this



Committee is able to affect the future picture of tuberculosis in this Borough as much, if not more, than the services supplied under the National Health Service. With 72 new notifications every year, it is quite obvious that every patient suffering from tuberculosis cannot be offered fresh accommodation at once if their housing circumstances are not ideal. In West Bromwich, however, patients suffering from tuberculosis get exceptionally kind and careful consideration from the housing authorities, and there is no doubt that the scheme at present operating appears to work both fairly and with expedition.

#### AFTER-CARE

“ Under this heading there are to be found the multifarious activities of organisations such as the Ministry of Pensions, the National Assistance Board, the West Bromwich Voluntary After-care Committee, and a number of small charities. In one way or another all these bodies co-operate to see that every effort is made to alleviate the financial hardship which falls upon a family when the bread winner is prevented from working for a long time. Attention should be drawn to the humane treatment given by the officers of the National Assistance Board. In certain cases during the year the After-Care Committee was able to help non-tuberculous patients and it is hoped that this side of the work will expand in the future.”

It is a pleasure to record my thanks to Dr. Cole, who, as in previous years, has worked in close conjunction with the staff of the Health Department and taken so great an interest in the preventive aspect of his work with tuberculosis.

The Health Committee provides free milk and other nourishment to tuberculous patients who are recommended as needing such help.

Dr. Cole is employed for 2/11ths of his time in after-care work for the Council, who also employ two full-time tuberculosis visitors on the after-care of patients and the prevention of illness.

The staffing of the Chest Clinic is a matter for the hospital authorities and the deployment of mass miniature radiography units for the Regional Hospital Board.

### OTHER DISEASES

#### Influenza

West Bromwich was affected by the pandemic of influenza which spread from the Far East and due to a variant of Influenza “ A ” virus known as Asian. The disease was not notifiable but cases appeared in the Hill Top area on or about the 9th September. The main effect of the disease appeared to be in school children and school absences rose rapidly until on the 20th September 7,256 children were absent out of 16,029 on the roll of maintained schools. Some individual schools had absence rates of up to 64%.

Cases in adults occurred at the same time or shortly afterwards resulting in a great increase in claims for sickness benefits.

The disease was in the main mild in character and the illness of short duration, but deaths did occur. Of these five were in children who appeared to be perfectly healthy a few days before and six in adults. Of these adults four were suffering from other illnesses and influenza accelerated death. Apart from these deaths occurring at the time of the epidemic, a further nine deaths occurred during the year in which influenza was given as the cause on the death certificate. These figures should be contrasted with the 1931 and 1918 epidemics. In the former 29 and in the latter 291 persons died in West Bromwich.

The virus was recovered and identified from representative samples taken in the early days of the epidemic.

By the 8th October school absences were at their usual level, and by 12th November the number of claims for sickness benefit had fallen to the usual seasonal level.

No widespread second wave of infection occurred. A limited supply of vaccine was issued by the Ministry of Health for priority use in the health service but was not available until after the epidemic. This was offered to doctors, nurses, ambulance men and others at special risk whose illness in an epidemic might have serious results. Fortunately in the absence of a second wave these precautions were unnecessary.

Venereal Disease

Details of the returns of cases of venereal disease in West Bromwich treated at the General Hospital, Birmingham and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below:—

				<i>Birmingham</i>	<i>Dudley</i>	<i>Total</i>
Syphilis	...	...	...	11	1	12
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	43	4	47
Conditions other than venereal				62	6	68
				116	11	127

The following table shows the number of cases from West Bromwich over the last five years:—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Syphilis ...	8	4	2	7	12
Gonorrhoea ...	14	16	14	55	47
Others ...	68	65	33	69	68
	90	85	49	131	127

There is a national rise in the incidence of gonorrhoea.

## Pneumoconiosis

Although pneumoconiosis is not notifiable to the local authority but is an industrial disease, it is one which affects West Bromwich particularly in view of the large number of foundries.

It is unfortunate that no statutory arrangements exist for a direct interest by the local authority in a disease so obviously of local importance, particularly as many members of the Council from personal experience are interested in the matter.

Dr. C. W. D. Cole, the Chest Physician, has taken a great interest in the disease, and he comments as follows:—

“ People in West Bromwich, and particularly the members of the foundry trade, are becoming increasingly aware of the risk that exists in foundries of acquiring pneumoconiosis. During the year one foundry completed a comprehensive dust extraction scheme in its works with immediate benefit to be seen in the workers who now go home at the end of the day far less dirty than they did previously. I note that other foundries are tending to follow this lead and there has been a good deal of improvement generally. Far too little is known, either locally or internationally, about this disease, but with certain investigations now reaching their conclusion it is expected that more knowledge will be available about the true extent of the risk involved and where this risk lies. The next few years should see a vast improvement for the outlook is good.”



PART IV

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Health Education

Rehousing on Medical Grounds

Medical Examinations

Nursing Homes

Co-ordination of Services dealing with  
Child Neglect

Welfare of Immigrants

Cost of the Services

## Health Education

Leaflets, posters and pamphlets were used at clinics and posters were also available in the Health Department and in places where members of the public would be expected to see them.

The Medical Officer of Health and other members of his staff gave a number of talks to various organisations in the town on subjects connected with public health. A film strip projector was available in the Department, together with a small library of film strips.

Plans were made for the holding of a series of lectures on foot health to nurses, teachers and school children, to be given early in 1958.

The Minister has asked for a report on action taken in regard to smoking and cancer of the lung. This matter was discussed extensively by the Health Committee and the General Purposes Committee of the Council. It was felt that the most effective propaganda on the subject was that put out nationally, probably through the agency of the normal newspaper reporting on the subject and also through television, but arrangements were made with the Education Department for a syllabus for use in schools to be drawn up on the general physiological principles of respiration and the effect of smoking. It was felt that the most important group of the population to tackle was that comprising secondary school children and that the method of doing this should be to introduce the subject as part of the normal curriculum.

A health and welfare services handbook was produced giving information on these services. Copies were circulated to members of the Council, doctors, social workers and others whose interests involved advising the public.

The Medical Officer of Health gave lectures to student nurses to ensure that they were aware of the general health and welfare services provided by the authority. The Chief Nursing Officer gave eight lectures largely on the work of the local authority nursing staff.

The education of the public in matters of health is a problem which needs much more thought nationally. Commercial advertising is an industry with its own techniques and with a vast annual financial cost. Compared with this the methods and techniques used in education on matters of health are clumsy and crude and the expenditure minute.

## Rehousing on Medical Grounds

Owing to the acute housing shortage in the town there has been a tendency in the last two years for an increasing number of persons on the Housing Register to apply for special consideration for rehousing on medical grounds. In 1956, 157 applications were received and in 1957 the total rose to 313.

Practically all these cases were interviewed, some more than once, and in many, home visits were made. A large number of the applications were accompanied by medical certificates and in others, where there seemed to be a possibility of genuine illness, reports were requested from family doctors or consultants.

During 1957, one-sixth of the applications came from overcrowded households, but consideration was only given to those where there was illness in addition to the overcrowding. A small number of cases were based on the bad condition of the property and wherever possible these were referred to the Chief Public Health Inspector for his consideration.

Following a decision of the Housing Committee in October that slum clearance tenants should be offered accommodation in the high storey, higher rented flats, a number of cases were investigated where tenants had refused to take a flat on medical grounds.

The remainder were cases of mild recurring illness or mental ill-health of various degrees of severity, except for 32 applications which concerned serious long-standing illness or disability and which received very serious consideration. Only 11 of these were recommended to the Housing Committee and all were assisted with regard to housing in some way.

Many tenants in Corporation property wish to move to other types of accommodation and if they are able to arrange a suitable exchange themselves the Housing Manager will usually assist the exchange. If, however, they request to be moved on medical grounds the Medical Officer of Health is asked to investigate. Fifty such applications were considered during the year and exchanges recommended in 20 cases. Twelve of these have since been transferred, one has refused the offer made, two have decided not to proceed with the request and in five cases the Housing Manager has not yet been able to find suitable accommodation.

The rehousing of tuberculous patients is dealt with by Dr. Cole, the Chest Physician. He recommends cases of dangerous infection to the Housing Committee and in 1957 19 cases were immediately rehoused. He can also give extra points to families where he feels that rehousing would be helpful, but since the suspension of the Points Scheme in October, 1957, such families do not receive assistance.



## MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

### Children's Department

The Health Department staff were responsible for the routine medical supervision of children in the care of the local authority. Medical officers saw these children on admission and prior to discharge. They also paid visits to the Charlemont Nursery and Reception Home. Altogether a total of 242 medical examinations was carried out. These were classified as follows:—

	<i>Reception Home</i>	<i>Nursery</i>
Number of children examined on admission	42	19
Number of children examined on discharge	38	20
Number of examinations made for the purpose of boarding out ... ..	8	—
Number of routine examinations:—		
0 – 1 year ... ..	—	49
1 – 5 years ... ..	6	46
Over 5 years ... ..	14	—

Twenty-nine routine medical visits were carried out during the year.

### Corporation Staff

The Medical Officer of Health and his staff were responsible for medical examinations in connection with the superannuation and sickness and accident schemes. The work done during the year was as follows:—

#### SUPERANNUATION

Number of examinations ... ..	127
Failed ... ..	—
Accepted ... ..	123
Deferred for re-examination ... ..	3
Accepted after re-examination ... ..	1
Awaiting re-examination ... ..	2

#### FOR ADMISSION TO THE CORPORATION'S SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT SCHEME

Number of examinations ... ..	239
Failed ... ..	2
Accepted ... ..	218
Deferred for re-examination ... ..	18
Died whilst awaiting re-examination ... ..	1
Accepted after re-examination ... ..	4
Examination of prospective teachers ... ..	63
Examinations for retirement on medical grounds ... ..	3
Examinations for other purposes ... ..	3

## NURSING HOMES

There are two nursing homes in West Bromwich registered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and these provide between them 32 beds for acute and chronic medical cases although most cases come into the latter category. In both Homes there have been some changes of staff during the year. Both have been inspected and found reasonably satisfactory.

### Co-ordination of Services dealing with Child Neglect

Since December, 1953, regular meetings of officers have been held in accordance with the suggestions of a joint circular issued by the Home Office, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The Medical Officer of Health has been designated as co-ordinating officer, and the following officers are represented at these meetings :—

- The Area Officer, National Assistance Board
- The Chief Nursing Officer, Health Department
- The Children's Officer
- The Director of Education
- The Housing Manager
- The N.S.P.C.C. Inspector
- The Probation Officer

Meetings took place regularly at monthly intervals under the chairmanship of the Medical Officer of Health and endeavoured to fulfil three objects.

First to provide a method for the dissemination of information between the various departments interested in the problems of one particular child.

Secondly, to provide an opportunity for the discussion of the problems of a particular family with children with a view to pooling experience and working out, where possible, methods of dealing with the family and avoiding overlapping visits from different departments.

Thirdly, to provide for the opportunity of personal contact between field officers engaged in social work of different departments who otherwise might meet very infrequently although their work would benefit from such contact.

It is difficult to assess the results in work of this nature but there were encouraging signs of progress in certain families which at one time appeared to be on the verge of breakdown and have been partly or wholly rehabilitated.

The results of 1957 are as follows :—

Number of families known to the meeting ...	88
Number of families on the live register at the beginning of the year involving 153 children	29
Number of families added to the register during the year involving 22 children ...	6
Total number of families considered during the year involving 185 children ... ..	38



Since April, 1956, the Health Committee has extended the work undertaken by selected home helps in connection with problem families. Two of the home helps have been selected for this purpose and have been visiting five families during the year. It is of interest to note the results that have been achieved with one of the more successful cases.

"This family which consists of mother, father and nine children, was helped throughout the year. As the mother became more efficient it was possible to reduce the amount of help given and considering the very difficult working conditions in their sub-standard accommodation the mother coped remarkably well.

"In July, 1957, the family were offered a four-bedroomed Corporation house in the same area. They gladly accepted although the increase in rent was substantial. As the house was in the same district the father's employment did not need to be changed.

"The mother was determined to show what she could do when given better amenities and has certainly done her best. The amount of help being given at the end of the year was extremely small and it was obvious that the mother was maintaining the same standards of cleanliness as when the Family Worker was there and she welcomed visits at any time. It was hoped that the child who had been previously ill-treated and was in a residential nursery would shortly be able to return home for good."

Although this can be regarded as a fairly successful piece of rehabilitation, in the majority of families there were results which were not obvious and often all that was done was to keep the family with its head above water and so prevent its final deterioration.

Of the 38 families known to the Co-ordinating Officer as presenting major problems, eight are still discussed regularly, eleven are kept on the active list for observation by a department and discussed when necessary and 19 have been removed from the list.

## Welfare of Immigrants

The Commonwealth Welfare Council for the West Midlands Area, which was set up in July, 1956, with the object of promoting the welfare of Commonwealth citizens resident in the area, assisting their assimilation into the community, gaining the co-operation of local authorities and other organisations achieving these objects, and raising funds to enable advice, information or other assistance to be given, has employed a Liaison Welfare Officer, Mr. T. Geoffrey Ayre, from 1st November, 1957. Mr. Ayre, in accommodation in the Health Department, interviews immigrants who require help in personal problems in addition to being available for consultation by social workers from many of the Corporation departments and voluntary organisations who are faced with difficulties arising from



dealing with families from overseas. During the time Mr. Ayre has been dealing with this work he has been of the utmost assistance on a variety of problems affecting immigrants.

Courses of evening classes to teach the English language have been started in the Borough by the Education Committee and are being regularly attended.

Cost of the Services

The cost of the services provided under the National Health Service Act, the National Assistance Act, and other health services during the year, is shown compared with the cost of the previous nine years in the following table :—

Year	National Health Service Act, 1946		National Assistance Act, 1948		Other Health Services	
	Gross Cost	Net Cost	Gross Cost	Net Cost	Gross Cost	Net Cost
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1948-49	25,520	11,974	12,435	8,357	52,066	45,029
1949-50	39,263	17,706	18,164	12,277	50,334	43,995
1950-51	48,913	21,768	16,740	11,192	54,062	48,212
1951-52	53,817	21,977	18,708	13,517	62,567	52,204
1952-53	60,493	26,398	23,936	16,114	66,993	60,007
1953-54	61,911	27,794	24,479	15,693	71,418	66,048
1954-55	64,535	29,777	28,781	19,449	70,082	66,150
1955-56	69,931	32,766	32,298	21,232	84,079	77,908
1956/57	81,294	38,249	36,823	25,481	91,861	81,693



PART V

WELFARE SERVICES

Care of the Aged

Care of the Handicapped

Other Welfare Services



## General Arrangements

The Authority's functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948, are discharged through the Welfare Services Committee. The day to day administration is under the direction of the Chief Welfare Officer who is the Medical Officer of Health. He is assisted in his duties by two welfare officers, two occupational therapists, seven wardens and six full-time and eleven part-time staff at the residential homes.

The administration of these services is carried on by the same administrative staff as the health services.

Duties relating to the care of the blind are carried out by the agency of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind and, similarly, duties relating to the deaf and dumb are carried out by the Church Mission, Walsall, on behalf of the Council.

## CARE OF THE AGED

### Incidence

The 1951 census showed that for people aged 65 years and over the numbers in the borough were as follows :—

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
65 – 69 years	1,265	1,628	2,893
70 – 74 „	932	1,287	2,219
75 – 79 „	607	846	1,453
80 – 84 „	216	342	558
85 – 89 „	61	112	173
90 – 94 „	6	25	31
95 years and over	1	7	8

### Residential Accommodation

Accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act is provided directly by the Council at :—

“The Hawthorns” Green Lane, West Bromwich, for 21 elderly ladies.

“Lyndon House”, Lyndon, West Bromwich, for 17 elderly persons of either sex.

“Beech Holme”, Beeches Road, West Bromwich, for 20 elderly men.

“Greenside House”, Greenside Way, Yew Tree Estate, West Bromwich, for 42 elderly persons of either sex.

The homes at “The Hawthorns”, “Lyndon House” and “Beech Holme” are converted private houses, whereas the new home “Greenside House” which was opened by the Right Hon. Herbert Morrison, C.H., M.P., on 22nd July, 1957, is a purpose built home providing a high standard of care.

In addition to this provision, by arrangement with the Wolverhampton Corporation, beds for elderly persons are made available at "The Poplars", New Cross, Wolverhampton.

At the end of the year the number of persons resident in the Homes was as follows :—

			Men	Women
"The Hawthorns"	...	...	—	20
"Lyndon House"	...	...	6	9
"Beech Holme"	...	...	16	—
"Greenside House"	...	...	19	20
"The Poplars"	...	...	7	4

In addition to people maintained in Homes run by the Council directly, there are others who for various reasons are maintained in local authority homes elsewhere. These are as follows :—

			Men	Women
Bromley House, Wolverhampton	...	...	—	1
Cleveland Road Hostel, Wolverhampton	...	...	—	1
Cowley Home, Birmingham	...	...	—	1
Fred Evans Home, Walsall	...	...	—	1
Fir Vale Infirmary, Sheffield	...	...	1	—
Hampton Grange, Hereford	...	...	1	—
31, Park Hill, Moseley, Birmingham	...	...	—	1
Tate House, Harrogate	...	...	1	—

Persons are admitted to Part III accommodation on the decision of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Welfare Services Committee with the advice of the Chief Welfare Officer. Medical care is given by a practitioner of the patient's choice and, as far as possible, everything is done to encourage the old persons to regard the Home as their own.

Arrangements are made to nurse those who are sick. Admission to hospital is only requested where it is medically necessary, not administratively convenient.

Arrangements are made for the holidays of residents in the Homes and during 1957 these were done through the agency of the Staffordshire County Council — 15 people going to Rhyl and 11 to Weston-Super-Mare. Unfortunately some of the accommodation provided was not suitable for the more frail and the Council therefore decided in future to run their own scheme for this purpose.

During the year arrangements were made for regular film shows and other entertainment at the Homes, and at Christmas a combined Christmas Party was held at "Greenside House" for the residents of all the Homes. Individual Christmas cards and individual presents were also provided, together with additional pocket money to enable the residents to purchase their own gifts. A birthday card scheme was also started so that every old person in care on his or her birthday received a card from the Welfare Services Committee. Extra amenities such as beer, tobacco or cigarettes or sweets were also given.



## Finance

The full financial charge to the Council per resident at directly maintained homes was estimated at £5 5 0 per week. At the 31st December 1957, 70 residents without private means were paying the minimum charge of £1 12 6 a week, while 19 were paying a proportion of the full charge according to their means. Each resident was receiving a minimum of 7/6 a week pocket money, while 5 were given amounts of up to 5/0 a week in return for small domestic services in or around the homes carried out by them of their own free will and of their own choice.

The following table gives a summary of accommodation during the financial year 1957/58 :—

	<i>Beech Holme</i>	<i>Lyndon House</i>	<i>The Hawthorns</i>	<i>Greenside House*</i>
Number of beds ... ..	20	17	21	42
Percentage of beds occupied	95	96	98	78
Number of admissions ...	6	3	8	48
Number of discharges ...	2	2	6	5
Number of deaths ... ..	5	3	1	2

\*Admissions from the 14th June, 1957, only.

## Care in the Community

With only two Welfare Officers it was not possible to maintain a regular visiting service to aged persons who were known to be living alone, and the emphasis was on dealing with the problems as they arose. The greatest problem still lies in the ascertainment of those requiring help. These come to our notice through members of the Council, family doctors, social agencies, and members of the public. The staff cannot find all the persons living alone and in need of help. Obviously many old persons might resent being visited without having requested such action. The difficulty of finding those in need, especially if they are unaware of how to get help, is one to which no satisfactory solution has yet been found. It would help if more members of the public would draw the attention of the Department to cases known to them personally.

It is most desirable to follow up the number of old people brought to the notice of the department as having difficulty, in order to ensure that as much as possible is done for them to help them to solve their problems and with this in mind it was agreed by the Council to employ a further Welfare Officer during 1958.

Close liaison was maintained with voluntary organisations concerned with the welfare of the aged.

The number of aged patients requiring admission to hospital on medical grounds was always larger than the number of beds available and in order to ensure that those patients with the greater need were admitted first, the Consultant Physician in charge of the



wards for elderly patients at the Hallam Hospital visited each case on the waiting list, together with the Chief Nursing Officer of the authority, to assess the need and degree of urgency.

Old people make considerable demand on the Home Help Service and during 1957 nearly half of the total of persons assisted were more than 75 years of age. To these an illness often spells the beginning of loss of independence.

**Social Facilities**

The West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee co-ordinated the activities for social facilities for the elderly living in their own homes and a total of eight Old People's Clubs was active in the Borough with a membership of approximately 750.

**Meals on Wheels**

Throughout the year the Women's Voluntary Services continued this service and an average of 60 two-course meals was given weekly. A grant was made by the Council to this organisation and the meals were purchased from the Civic Restaurant at 1/7 each. The cost to each recipient was 10d. and a total of 2,390 dinners was supplied during the year ended March 1958.

Considerable thought and discussion was given to the possibility of getting a further meal to each patient per week, but by the end of the year it had not been established that this could be done.

**Chiropody**

The West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee have arrangements for a chiropodist to attend at the Highfields, Stone Cross and Yew Tree Infant Welfare Centres and at the Trinity Road Social Centre. The number of treatments carried out in recent years was as follows :—

1954	...	...	936
1955	...	...	875
1956	...	...	999
1957	...	...	1,716

In addition, 20 patients received 60 treatments in their own homes.

Part of the cost of the service is defrayed by a grant from the National Corporation for the Care of the Elderly. The Authority makes a grant to the West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee for general expenses.

Old people in residential accommodation provided by the Corporation have the facility of a chiropodist calling at the Homes at regular intervals.

### Employment of Old People

The West Bromwich Employment Trust was set up in an endeavour to provide facilities for the employment of persons in the older age groups who because of their age could not continue in normal employment but still could share in some useful service and keep their self-respect by work suitably adapted to their ability. It was found that even allowing for a substantial grant from the Authority and the possibility of a grant from the National Corporation for the Care of the Elderly, insufficient money could be raised locally to provide for a regular income although probably sufficient could be gained to launch the scheme. The Committee of the Trust, therefore, regretfully came to the conclusion that it would be unfortunate to launch the scheme if the prospects of its continuing were not strong and that the matter should be left for the time being.

# CARE OF THE HANDICAPPED

## The Blind

### Incidence

The number of registered blind persons in the borough is shown in age groups in the following table :—

0—1 year	2—4 years	5—15 years	16—20 years	21—39 years	40—49 years	50—64 years	65—69 years	70 years and over
M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
— —	— —	3 —	3 —	5 2	7 3	10 13	5 7	27 38

During the year six men (including one man transferred from the partially sighted register) and twelve women were certified as blind and three people (one man, one woman and one child) were transferred into the district. One youth was transferred from the children's register to the adult's register.

The following table shows the diagnosis of cases registered, those recommended for treatment and the number taking advantage of treatment :—

		Cause of Disability			
		Cataract	Glaucoma	Fibrosis	Others
(1)	Number of cases registered of which paragraph 7 (c) of Form B.D.S. recommends :				
	(i) No treatment ...	3	1	—	4
	(ii) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical) ...	5	—	—	5
(2)	Number of cases at (i) and (ii) above, which on follow-up have received treatment	—	—	—	—

Two blind men and four blind women died during the year.

### Residential Care

The Council does not run residential homes for the blind but uses those provided by voluntary agencies and other local authorities.

The following table shows the number of persons for whom West Bromwich is responsible who are living in residential homes for the blind :—



	Voluntary agencies		Local authorities	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Blind     ...     ...	1	2	1	—
Deaf Blind     ...	1	—	—	—

## Care in the Community

The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind acts as the Council's agent for the provision of care in the community for blind persons and also for the provision of employment in workshops through their arrangements with the City of Birmingham Blind Workshops. The Royal Institution also provides social facilities, handicraft classes and home teaching. It is responsible for the arrangements for the registration of blind persons or of partially sighted persons. In West Bromwich there is one home teacher employed by the Institution who visited the blind in their own homes to deal with their problems and held a social club at the Trinity Road Social Centre which is situated in West Bromwich and is maintained by the Council. Meetings took place every Thursday between the hours of 10.0 a.m. and 5.0 p.m. A group of 10 men and 14 women was instructed by the home teacher in the art of making leather wallets and purses, pension book cases, plastic necklaces, hand scrubbers (wire or cloth backing), rugs (wool and chenille), candle-wick work, cushion covers, etc. and stool seating (sea grass).

## Employment

The workshops for the blind are situated in Birmingham and serve that city in addition to the county boroughs of Smethwick, West Bromwich, and also some county areas. At the end of the year the following people from West Bromwich were in workshop employment:—

### OPEN INDUSTRY OR SELF-EMPLOYED

#### Male

- 1    Labourer in a printing works
- 1    basket maker
- 1    general dealer
- 1    licensee
- 1    assistant foreman in basket shop
- 1    spring bender
- 1    general labourer

# WORKSHOP EMPLOYMENT

Men	Women	
4	1	Trainees
—	2	Knitting machine department
2	—	Brush making department
1	—	Boot repairing department
2	—	Mat making department
1	—	Light assembly department
1	—	Piano tuner (goes out from workshop every day)
1	—	Basket maker

## Holidays

No official holiday was organised this year, but grants from the Voluntary Fund of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind were made to 15 blind men, 15 blind women, and 24 sighted guides, who arranged their own holidays.

## Blind Persons with other disabilities

The following table gives details of blind persons suffering from other disabilities :—

Deaf		Deaf and Dumb		Hard of Hearing		Mental Defectives		Paralysis		Cardiac		Diabetic		Other Disabilities	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	5	3	2	5	1	—	—	1	1	7	6	5

## Partially sighted

During 1957, 10 adults (4 males and 6 females) were registered as partially sighted. Two persons from the partially sighted register were transferred to the blind register. The total at the end of the year of partially sighted people in West Bromwich was as follows :—

0—1 year		2—4 years		5—16 years		16—20 years		21—49 years		50—64 years		65—69 years		70 years and over	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	1	6	10

## General welfare

Wireless sets from the Wireless for the Blind Fund have been supplied to all persons in need. Maintenance and repairs were carried out under arrangements made by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, the Local Authority being responsible for the payments.

Subscriptions for the National Library for the Blind were paid in respect of three readers.

## DEAF AND DUMB (INCLUDING THE HARD OF HEARING)

The Church Mission to the deaf and dumb in Walsall, Wednesbury, and mid-Staffordshire, whose headquarters are in Walsall, is employed as the Council's agent and at the end of the year a total of 44 adults in West Bromwich was known to and registered by them. In addition the Education Authority knew of 5 deaf and 8 partially deaf children. Arrangements are made through the agency of the Church Mission and their Missioner for assisting deaf and dumb people to gain employment, to learn lip-reading and to use the manual alphabet. The Missioner also visited them and gave general assistance and advice over their problems. Weekly social evenings were held at the Trinity Road Social Centre. Every two weeks the Hard of Hearing Social Club met and catered for 5 West Bromwich and 4 Smethwick residents, together with 8 hearing persons. There was an active sports session and visitors from quite a wide area attended the meetings held for the deaf and dumb.

## PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

At the end of the year the number of persons known to be physically handicapped in West Bromwich was 413. This was an increase of 133 over the previous year. The physically handicapped people are grouped into a total of five groups, and these are defined as follows:—

- GROUP A. Handicapped persons (other than children) who though possibly needing training for some new occupation are capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions.
- GROUP B. Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions, but who are mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops.
- GROUP C. Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and who are insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops, but who are capable of work at home.
- GROUP D. Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of, or not available for, work.



GROUP E. Handicapped persons who are children under the age of 16 years and whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority has a general responsibility under Section 29 of the Act.

The following table shows the number of persons in each group, together with the additions and subtractions during the year :—

Group	Total 1956	Additions	Transfers from other Groups	Transfers to other Groups	Deaths	Total 1957
A.	61	4	1	—	—	66
B.	6	2	—	—	—	8
C.	4	—	—	—	1	3
D.	194	23	—	1	2	214
E.	18	104	—	—	—	122

The 413 cases known to the department can be classified as suffering from disabilities as follows :—

Disability	Group					Total
	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	
Amputation ... ..	8	—	—	16	—	24
Arthritis and rheumatism ...	—	1	—	34	3	38
Congenital malformations and deformities ... ..	6	—	—	17	—	23
Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems; of the heart or circulatory system; of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis of the skin) ... ..	4	1	—	56	41	102
Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and the spine ... ..	29	2	2	22	18	73
Organic nervous diseases — epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc. ... ..	8	1	1	32	35	77
Neurosis, psychosis and other mental disorders not included in organic nervous diseases ... ..	6	2	—	16	1	25
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	3	—	—	4	3	10
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	1	—	—	2	10	13
Diseases and injuries not specified above ... ..	1	1	—	15	11	28
Total ... ..	66	8	3	214	122	413

## Alterations to Property

Alterations to property to facilitate the movements of handicapped persons were carried out in four cases during the year and the following illustrates the type of work done :—

A man in H.M. Forces had an accident and was almost completely paralysed. His wife was living with her mother in an upstairs flat. The Housing Committee granted him the tenancy of a prefabricated bungalow. At the expense of the Welfare Services Committee, the garden paths were raised to form ramps to front and back doors, hooks and lifting chains were fixed over the bed, bath and lavatory and as the doors of the bathroom and lavatory were too narrow for his wheel chair, the doors and dividing partition were removed and one very wide one fitted. This allowed plenty of room for manoeuvring in the now combined bathroom and lavatory.

## Library Facilities

Arrangements have been made for co-operation between the Public Library Service and the West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped. Full facilities are given for the renewal of books by people attending the library on behalf of handicapped persons and members of the library staff are asked to give special attention to the issue of these books.

## Occupational Therapy

The Council provides facilities for occupational therapy and one occupational therapist was employed until the 2nd December, 1957, when we were fortunate enough to gain the services of a second therapist.

The senior occupational therapist reports as follows :—

### EXPANSION OF SERVICE

During the year 69 people were visited by the occupational therapists. Of this number 29 were new cases referred to the Welfare Department by local general practitioners, the local hospitals, social workers in the health and welfare fields and the National Assistance Board. Two of the people who previously attended the centre were able to return to full employment.

### ATTENDANCE AT THE CENTRE

A total of 31 people attended the classes which were held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons every week from 2.0 to 5.0 p.m., the average attendance at each session being 14 persons. The numbers had to be limited owing to the lack of accommodation.

### USE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, TENSORE STREET

Approval for the use of certain rooms was obtained and arrangements were made to hold several classes per week. Work was



commenced on the building of a ramp to allow of easier access to an end door so that wheel chairs could pass through and another door was also widened for this purpose.

## PROGRESS MADE AT THE CLASSES

The progress made at the classes showed that given the right conditions and suitable choice of job a great deal of good work can be produced by the physically handicapped. This is taking into account the work of the more seriously disabled, many of whom are the most regular attenders. By bringing the physically handicapped out of their homes into a more normal working atmosphere, the need has been demonstrated for more communal activity and associated with this the need for a constant supply of work.

## TRANSPORT

This was provided by the Corporation for the non-ambulant patients other than those who possessed their own invalid carriages.

## DOMICILIARY WORK

Of the cases receiving occupational therapy at home the majority were confined either to bed or to a wheel chair, and as most of these were suffering from disabilities of a progressive nature there was seldom a likelihood of their resuming their former employment. In such instances and especially after prolonged hospital treatment, occupational therapy was required to provide mental stimulation and to give opportunities for learning new skills which were within their interest and abilities. As far as possible the occupations chosen were designed to help maintain function in the upper limbs, thus enabling the patient to retain a little more independence and to encourage them to do as much as possible for themselves.

## RESETTLEMENT AT HOME

In each instance when the occupational therapist visited a home an assessment was made of the handicapped person's degree of independence in carrying out everyday activities such as washing and dressing, eating and drinking. It was found that many people were almost entirely dependent upon their relatives to help them to do these things. A simple aid or gadget would help them in many cases to overcome their difficulty and these were provided by the therapist at very low cost as they usually could be made at the Centre.

## SALE OF FINISHED ARTICLES

The physically handicapped continue to sell a high percentage of their work to their relatives and friends but this demand has now been exhausted to some extent and orders are being sought from other sources. Articles have been displayed to the public and sales have been made at various fetes and shows during the year.



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total turnover from 1.1.57 to 31.12.57 ...	£522	14	3
Percentage of cost of materials recovered on sale of articles to cost of materials issued ...	79%		
Percentage of total recovery (i.e. sold and unsold products) to cost of materials issued ...	86%		
Total labour payments made during period	£241	2	11

## Social Activities

The West Bromwich Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped is a strong voluntary association most active in the town, which held regular meetings during the year and raised funds by means of the Alexandra Rose Flag Day and by subscription.

The Association provides Christmas parties for both adults and children and a total of 57 children and 62 adults was entertained. Considerable assistance was given by various interested organisations in entertaining and helping to handle the handicapped. The Transport Committee were most generous with help in taking persons to and from these parties.

In addition, through the efforts of the Health Department, a club (The Club of the New Horizons) was formed, run entirely by the physically handicapped themselves. This has been most strongly supported and as a therapeutic measure has resulted in the gaining of considerable independence by persons who were otherwise quite severely handicapped. The club meets in premises provided by the Council at the Trinity Road Social Centre and produces its own magazine which is duplicated in the Health Department.

## Holidays

As members of a party arranged by the Staffordshire County Council Welfare Department, ten physically handicapped residents of the Borough together with escorts were able to enjoy a week's holiday at Weston-Super-Mare. All of them were most grateful for the opportunity of having this holiday.

## Attendance of Staff at Residential Courses and Conferences

A welfare officer attended a course on "The Nature and Prevention of Blindness" held at the Royal Eye Hospital, St. George's Circus, London, on the 4th and 5th May, 1957.

The Chief Welfare Officer attended a Conference of the Southern Regional Association for the Blind, held in London on the 18th July 1957.

# Epilepsy

A total of 14 adults (5 men and 9 women) and 4 children (3 boys and 1 girl) in the Borough are known to be suffering from epilepsy. As those who suffer from this disease do not normally seek help or come to the notice of the Authority unless their condition is interfering substantially with their mode of life, or, in the case of children with their education, this is an understatement of the total number of persons in the Borough with epilepsy. Of those known to the Authority, 2 persons are in employment and 12 are at present unemployable. One attends the occupational therapy class.

# Cerebral Palsy

Twenty-two people were known to be suffering from cerebral palsy in West Bromwich in 1957. These were as follows :—

## CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE

One child was known to the health visitor.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sixteen children were suffering from this condition and the type of disability can be summarised as follows :—

Hemiplegia	...	...	...	4
Paraplegia	...	...	...	6
Quadriplegia	...	...	...	4
Athetosis ...	...	...	...	2

In addition, 2 children have further disabilities.

Of these children, 5 are at ordinary school, 2 at a special school for the educationally sub-normal, 1 receives home teaching, 1 occupational therapy and 7 are deemed to be ineducable.

## ADULTS

Five men are known to be suffering from the condition. One is in employment and four are not employed. No woman suffering from cerebral palsy is known to the Authority.



## OTHER WELFARE SERVICES

### Persons in Need of Care and Attention

No action was taken during the year for the removal of persons in need of care and attention under the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

### Temporary Protection of Property

The Authority accepts responsibility for the protection of the house and effects of persons admitted to hospital or other accommodation who have made no suitable arrangements and have no one else to do this. No action was required during the year.

### Temporary Accommodation

The provision of temporary accommodation for persons rendered homeless as a result of fire, flooding or other unforeseen circumstances is made available by the Housing Committee. No specific accommodation is set aside for this purpose at present. The following cases were dealt with during the year :—

(1) In April an old lady, aged 82 years, a former resident of the Borough but living in Worcester at the time, came to West Bromwich and was in need of shelter. She was given temporary accommodation in "The Poplars" until arrangements were made with the Worcester Welfare Department for her accommodation in a Worcestershire Home.

(2) In September a family consisting of man, wife and 7 children, had their home completely destroyed by a fire in which one child lost her life. For a short time the couple and one child were in hospital, the other children being in the care of relatives and friends. Fortunately a house was immediately made available to this family by the Housing Committee and as soon as they were ready to occupy it, assistance was given in the way of transporting gifts of clothing, furniture, etc. to their new home. Help was also given in resettling the family by contacting the National Assistance Board, the Ministry of National Insurance and other agencies for the various forms of statutory assistance.

(3) In November another family was rendered homeless by fire. In this case the family consisted of man, wife and one small child. Fortunately there were no casualties. They were temporarily accommodated with relatives until a house was made available by the Housing Committee and assistance was given by transporting what furniture had been salvaged, together with gifts of furniture from various members of the public, to their new home. As in the former case, considerable time was spent in obtaining help from the National Assistance Board, the Insurance Company, and other social agencies.

### Burial or Cremation of the Dead

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the authority has a duty to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in the area, where no suitable arrangements for disposal have been made. During the year it was found necessary to arrange for six burials, including one Mohammedan.



PART VI

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

Comments of Chief Public Health Inspector

General Hygiene

Housing

Air and Factory Hygiene

Food Hygiene and Control

Public Cleansing and Salvage



# **Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector — 1957**

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To the Chairman and Members of the

## **HYGIENE AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In preparing and presenting this, my third annual report, I have departed from the usual arrangement and set out the statistics and comments in sections corresponding to our principal responsibilities. Before turning to these particulars I should like to make a few general observations.

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The routine work of the department has been greatly assisted by three Articled pupils now in the third year of their four-year Course. This is the outcome of a policy of education and training deliberately undertaken by the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee to make good some of the deficiency in the number of qualified inspectors.

The size and status of this authority and the variety and scope of its activities, provide all the practical experience required to make a pupil into a well trained inspector.

My senior colleagues and I look forward to the time when they take their place as full and useful members of the Service, be it in West Bromwich or elsewhere. We welcome the Committee's training policy and readily accept our responsibility for the rising generation.

### **VISITORS FROM HOME AND OVERSEAS**

It is always a pleasure to have a visit from Members or officers of other towns and every authority takes pride in showing its own particular efforts to deal with its problems. Consequently, the invitation of the Royal Society of Health to hold a Sessional Meeting in West Bromwich was readily accepted. The programme included two papers during the morning, one by the Medical Officer of Health and the other by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

"The Coloured Worker," by Dr. J. F. Skone, described the result of medical investigations concerning health and welfare of these new residents, and included the findings of a housing survey by the Chief Public Health Inspector.



"Revenue from Refuse" was the title of the paper given by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## HONG KONG

The British Council arranged for Mr. LAI Kee Leung, Chief Public Health Inspector of Hong Kong, to spend a day with us in July to examine particularly our methods and equipment for refuse collection and disposal.

In the process of explaining what we had to show we also learned something of the special and in some cases insoluble problems which confront a public health inspector working on a very crowded island.

## THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

Smoke, smells and din typify the industrial Midlands though significant and fundamental changes are springing from our endeavours to reduce all three. They are generally recognised as "nuisances" by the man-in-the-street but often difficult to prove before a Court.

Not one of the critics of our Smoke Control activities has denied the necessity to abolish smoke. It is only on the method that we differ. Energetic and widespread efforts to replace or improve the combustion of raw coal are bound to have a significant effect on our national energy policy. For years, both before and since World War II the food industries have been turning away from solid fuel to gas and oil because they are cleaner, more flexible and easier to handle. Many other fuel users now demand something cleaner and more convenient than raw coal, for example, there is a rapidly growing demand for electrically controlled and heated furnaces. All fuels are too dear to waste by sending heat in the form of black smoke up the chimney, and enlightened self-interest is proving a powerful ally in the campaign against smoke.

In this uncertain world even smells change. Seldom are we now called upon to deal with the earthy agricultural odours which, even in a highly industrialised area, present no problem. To deal satisfactorily with the odours which emanate from chemical works and industrial processes such as plastics, paints and fertilisers, cellulose spraying and the processing of animal by-products is often very difficult and they may even originate outside the boundaries of the affected authority. This is a growing problem and one which often affects H.M. Alkali Inspectors. How far they will be able to keep pace with this development and satisfactorily control and supervise the additional processes for which they may be responsible under the Clean Air Act, 1956, remains to be seen.

Noise nuisance is also the subject of a growing number of complaints. Fortunately, its measurement is not attended by the grave uncertainties which attend odours. In fact, a serious noise nuisance which arose from the cutting and planing of timber in a workshop opposite a school was eliminated first by measurement of its intensity and pitch, and later by recourse to Common Law procedure. The Education Committee had the benefit of the advice of an Acoustics Consultant in addition to the officers of the Corporation. Ultimately, the nuisance was abated by the transfer of the offending machinery, certain structural alterations, and internal rearrangement at the factory. Consequently, the case did not go into Court.

## RADIATION HAZARDS

The Windscale accident has emphasised the need for qualified personnel, readily available, on local authority staffs or by consultation, who are competent to be of real assistance when they are needed.

It is reasonable to expect that a health and industrial hygiene programme has already been worked out within the atomic energy industry. Likewise, the various public health and hygiene agencies will possibly follow the same pattern which has been evolved in dealing with other industrial hazards. The industry will take care of its own problems within the plant, whilst the local authority will assist when the problem goes beyond this limit and endangers health and safety of the general population.

One of the most important roles of the local authority will be in the field of education.

Education of official personnel must come first as well as education of persons ultimately responsible for all health services. Whilst it is not necessary that local authority officers should become experts, they do need to be able to evaluate a situation by sampling and measurement of the potential radiation hazard.

Equally important is their function as educators of the public in order that there is no exaggeration of the possible risk.

This is something well within their capacity and is indeed a role which they have fulfilled in other connections for many years.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS CONFERENCE

A very small number of practising inspectors are called upon each year to write and present a paper for discussion at the Annual Conference. No audience is more critical than one composed largely of professional colleagues. It was, therefore, a distinction and an honour for me to be invited to share with Dr. Betty Hobbs, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.H., the presentation of a symposium on "Meat



Hygiene.” It was an added pleasure to have Mr. Alan Gilpin who was responsible with Mr. James Pye for the initiation of our air hygiene programme, read a paper entitled “Clean Air: An Economic, Social and Administrative Problem.”

Both papers were well received, vigorously discussed, and we hope, brought some credit to our authority without whose support the work would not have been possible.

#### STAFF CHANGES

Mr. James Pye, a ‘founder member’ of the air hygiene section, decided to return to Lancashire and take up a similar appointment in Preston.

His place has been filled by Mr. S. Davies, seconded from district work with the prospect of confirmation in the substantive post when he obtains the necessary qualifications.

Mr. N. H. Owen joined us from Kings Lynn in November to specialise in food hygiene and control. It was intended that he should enlarge and strengthen our activities in this very important work, but this remains an objective for 1958.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I cannot close these remarks without expressing my appreciation of those who ‘also serve’ mentioning in particular, my deputy, Mr. G. H. Shaw who, with unfailing good humour, keeps the work flowing smoothly despite occasional sharp corners and the congestion and inconveniences which inevitably arise in a department which has outgrown its accommodation.

I record again my indebtedness to the Town Clerk and other Chief Officers and Heads of Departments for their co-operation and assistance on so many occasions during the year.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman, Vice-chairman and each and every member of the Committee for their consistent support throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. CAYTON,

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*



# GENERAL HYGIENE

G. H. SHAW,

*Deputy Chief Public Health  
Inspector.*

## Description of the Area

West Bromwich is situated in the West Midlands conurbation, lies midway between Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and the A.41 road joins the three towns. The County Borough of Walsall lies to the North and Smethwick to the South. West Bromwich has a population of 93,050 in a total of about 2,267,970 in the conurbation. A penny rate produces £3,870. Rateable value and population are growing rapidly from year to year.

Proceeding from Birmingham the town is entered by the old Holyhead Road which was formerly a turnpike road improved by Thomas Telford. It follows the crest of a high ridge of land through the business and industrial centre of the town. To the northward of this road stretches the declivity of the Tame Valley which is largely pleasant and unspoilt country forming the Green Belt between West Bromwich and Birmingham.

To the Southward lie the majority of the forges, furnaces and foundries which manufacture an infinite variety of iron, steel and non-ferrous metal goods. In common with other Black Country towns West Bromwich has its own speciality, which is spring-making.

## Inspections

The total number of inspections made during the year was 10,675. The following is a summary of them:—

Inspections —	Housing Acts (Slum Clearance, etc.)	...	1,825
„	Public Health and Housing Acts (Housing Repairs)	... ..	2,166
„	Public Health Act (Caravans)	... ..	133
„	Shops Act	... ..	68
„	Food and Drugs Act (Shops and food preparing premises)	... ..	871
„	Food and Drugs Act (Bakehouses)	... ..	48
„	Factories Act	... ..	23
„	Prevention of Damage by Pests Act (Rodent Control)	... ..	74
„	Houses occupied by coloured persons	... ..	35
„	Theatres and Cinemas (Sanitary conditions)	... ..	22
„	Chiropodists premises	... ..	5
„	Pharmacy and Poisons Act	... ..	5
„	Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order	... ..	29
„	Hairdressers	... ..	16
„	Hawkers	... ..	2

Re-inspections — Housing	...	...	...	...	1,474
Meat and Food Inspection — Visits to Slaughterhouses	...				2,330
Sampling Visits — Food and Drugs and Ice Cream	...				208
„ „ Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs	...				11
„ „ Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials					1
„ „ Water	...	...	...	...	51
Atmospheric Pollution — Smoke Observations, industrial and domestic surveys, investigations of industrial nuisances, deposit gauges	...	...	...	...	1,043
Infectious Disease Investigations	...	...	...	...	28
Visits in connection with Refuse Collection and Disposal					167
Visits — Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	40
					<hr/> 10,675 <hr/>

## Complaints Received

928 complaints were received during the year, all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken.

## Notices Served

The number of notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year was 743. Of this number 518 were Informal Notices and 225 were Statutory Notices. The total number of houses concerned was 1,004. In addition, 86 notices involving 116 houses were served under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949.

## Improvements Effected under the Public Health and Housing Acts

As a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health and Housing Acts, 229 houses were repaired during the year. In addition defects were remedied in a further 312 houses, after the service of formal notices under the Public Health Act. Of this latter number 216 houses were repaired by the owners and 96 by the local authority in default of owners.

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

### Interiors of houses

Repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork carried out	...	...	...	...	...	192
Ventilation provided or improved, windows repaired	...					96
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...		39
Defective firegrates and flues repaired	...	...	...	...		18
Defective staircases repaired	...	...	...	...		18

Exteriors of houses

Damp external walls — brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material	...	...	...	...	36
Defective roofs made watertight	...	...	...	...	194
Spouting renewed, repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	70
Chimneys repaired or repointed	...	...	...	...	45

Yards, Outbuildings, and Washing Accommodation

Outbuildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	147
Earthenware sinks provided or existing sinks repaired						23
Surface paving provided, renewed or repaired				...		4

Water supply

Insufficient water supply — remedied	...	...	...	...	2
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Drainage

Defective drainage relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Choked drainage opened or cleansed	...	...	...	...	111

Sanitary Conveniences

Defective connections repaired or pedestals renewed	...	...	...	...	95
Defective flushing apparatus repaired or insufficient water supply remedied	...	...	...	...	22
					1,123

Court Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936

One summons was issued during the year, details being as under :—

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Section under which proceedings were instituted</i>	<i>Result</i>
No. 13, John Street, Carters Green	Damp state of house	94	Work completed. Summons withdrawn. No fine or costs.

Houses-let-in-Lodgings

The number of houses-let-in-lodgings is now five.

Theatres and Cinemas

There are now seven cinemas in the borough, all of which are maintained in satisfactory condition.



The proprietors of one cinema could not see their way clear to comply with the requirements of the Corporation to improve inadequate sanitary accommodation and elected to close the premises.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

### DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses including Council houses	All other including business premises	Agri-cultural	Total of cols. 1, 2 and 3
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	58	25783	3558	8	29399
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) notification	27	247	62	—	336
(b) Survey under the Act	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	—	—	—	—
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	104	782	166		1052
Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats Major	12	137	26		175
Minor	5	69	17		91
(b) Mice Major	4	16	8		28
Minor	6	25	11		42
Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the local authority	27	247	62		336

## Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are eight premises in the borough licensed under the Pet Animals Act, 1951. All the premises have been regularly inspected, and a standard laid down when the Act first came into operation has been well maintained. There is still liaison with the West Bromwich and Smethwick Fire Brigade in view of the possibility of fire and the consequent danger to animals on the premises.

Hairdressers and Barbers

The number of premises registered under the West Bromwich Corporation Act carrying on the trade or business of hairdresser or barber was 80 at the end of the year.

Disinfection

One house was disinfected during the year following infectious disease.

Disinfestation

27 houses were disinfested by means of insecticide spray containing D.D.T., etc., during the year.

Your officers are frequently called on for advice as to effective measures for combating insect pests and for help in identification of such pests.

Satisfactory treatment by fumigation and spraying was effected to combat a heavy infestation of crickets in blocks of six storey flats owned by the Corporation. Precautionary steps were also taken to prevent such infestations in further blocks of flats in course of construction.

METEOROLOGY

Climatological Station, Dartmouth Park — 543.3 feet above sea level

					1957
Total rainfall ... ..					25.68"
No. of days on which rain fell ...					156
Taken at 9 a.m. local time					
Reading of Self-					
Registering Thermometers					
		Max. in Air	Min. in Air	Total	Days on
				Rainfall	which rain
					fell
January	...	46.19	37.71	1.27	15
February	...	47.00	35.39	2.51	18
March	...	55.93	41.87	2.29	15
April	...	57.43	40.30	0.17	3
May	...	61.29	42.67	1.16	8
June	...	74.27	49.50	1.08	9
July	...	70.55	55.32	3.51	19
August	...	68.84	53.29	4.00	17
September	...	61.67	48.20	4.35	17
October	...	58.17	46.48	1.74	12
November	...	47.43	38.40	1.66	8
December	...	44.71	33.93	1.94	15
Total ...				25.68"	156 days

## Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926, and Regulations

Nine samples of fertilisers and three samples of feeding stuffs were taken during the year and submitted to the Agricultural Analyst. One sample of fertiliser and one feeding stuffs were unsatisfactory and appropriate action was taken.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941

There are 65 names entered on the List of Persons entitled to sell poisonous substances included in Part II of the Poisons List.

## Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One manufacturer of rag flock is licensed by the Corporation and ten premises are registered under the Act. Four samples of washed rag flock were taken during the year and proved satisfactory.

## Water Supplies

The public water supply is derived from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department. The water received is treated and was satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological examination was made of 16 samples of water, taken from the sources below:—

From South Staffs. Waterworks Company ...	...	8
From City of Birmingham supply ...	...	8

All these samples proved to be satisfactory.

Six samples of water were taken from the public baths, all of which were satisfactory.

Sixteen samples of water, eight from the South Staffordshire supply and eight from the City of Birmingham supply were taken for chemical examination, all of which were satisfactory.

Details of the chemical analysis of the last sample taken are as follows:—

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.064
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	11.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	Trace
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80 deg. F. in 4 hours	...	...	1.6
Total Solids dried at 100 deg. C.	...	...	80
Nitrite	...	...	Absent
pH	...	...	7.40
Free Chlorine	...	...	Absent
Appearance	...	...	Bright, few small particles
Plumbo-solvency	...	...	Negative



## HOUSING

F. A. OAKES,  
*Specialist Inspector.*

### New Housing Accommodation

The numbers and types of houses and flats built by the local authority during the year 1957 is as follows:—

Two bedroom dwelling	...	...	...	18
Three ditto.	...	...	...	406
Four ditto.	...	...	...	32
Two bedroom flats	...	...	...	92
Three ditto.	...	...	...	32
One ditto.	...	...	...	33
Bed-sitting-room flats	...	...	...	3
				<hr/>
				616
The number of houses completed by private enterprise				...
				...
				...
				...
				373
				<hr/>
Total				...
				989
				<hr/>

### Housing Acts, 1936 – 1957

#### Slum Clearance

Slum Clearance is the term now in general use for the clearing of unfit houses, either as clearance areas or as individual unfit houses.

The term ‘slum’ as now applied to unfit houses in West Bromwich bears no resemblance to the squalid, overcrowded and verminous conditions of the pre-war clearance areas. The majority of houses in clearance areas to-day are occupied by decent working class people endeavouring to maintain a good standard of cleanliness in old sub-standard worn out houses. Though a large percentage of the occupiers provide for themselves modern firegrates and other appliances and repaper rooms frequently, in an effort to hide the inherent dampness and defective plastering of the walls, the slum properties with which we have to deal are really deplorable and should be demolished and replaced with all possible speed.

The Council’s clearance proposals approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1955, envisaged the clearance of 4,000 unfit houses during the fifteen years commencing 1st September, 1955. The first five years of the programme involve approximately 1,400 houses.

In 1956 the Guns Lane, King Street and Chapel Street Areas comprising 211 houses were represented and 104 demolition and closing Orders were made.

Further progress during 1957 towards the fulfillment of the programme consisted of the representation of seven clearance areas, involving 178 houses, the making of 130 Demolition Orders, 1 Closing Order and acceptance of 3 undertakings from owners to close or demolish three unfit houses.

Many of the 134 houses dealt with individually were in proposed clearance areas but their condition was such that immediate action was deemed necessary to secure the rehousing of the occupants. The Corporation have acquired or are in process of acquiring 19 of these properties by purchase. The following table shows details of the areas represented during the year and the rehousing of persons up to 31st December, 1957.

TABLE I  
CLEARANCE AREAS 1957

Clearance Areas	Type of Order	Date of Confirmation	No. of houses	No. of persons to be displaced	Progress during 1957	
					No. of houses demolished	No. of persons displaced
Chapel Street, Carters Green	C.P.O.	23.8.57	88	254	—	148
Guns Lane No. 1	Clearance Order	19.6.57	15	45	7	13
Guns Lane & King Street No. 1	C.P.O.	1.9.57	102	354	—	101
Guns Lane No. 1	C.P.O.	Excluded by Minister	6	—	—	—
New Street, Hill Top, No. 1	C.P.O.	Awaiting confirmation	61	187	—	—
Chestnut Avenue, High St., No. 1	Clearance Order	13.12.57	24	61	—	—
Roebuck Street No. 1	Clearance Order	Awaiting confirmation	10	35	—	—
Roebuck Street No. 2	Clearance Order	Awaiting confirmation	10	29	—	—
Roebuck Street No. 3	Clearance Order	Awaiting confirmation	11	39	—	—
Roebuck Street & Roebuck Lane No. 1	Clearance Order	Awaiting confirmation	48	142	—	—
Piercy Street No. 1	C.P.O.	Awaiting confirmation	12	32	—	—

TABLE II

# SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN IN THE POST WAR PERIOD

## (INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Demolition Orders Made</i>	<i>Closing Orders Made</i>	<i>Undertakings given under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957</i>
1946	109	—	—	—
1947	23	10	—	—
1948	117	39	—	—
1949	108	73	10	—
1950	112	51	—	—
1951	92	44	1	—
1952	55	64	—	—
1953	82	79	—	—
1954	10	58	4	23
1955	63	54	7	—
1956	120	86	10	26
1957	128	130	1	3
Total	1019	688	33	52

### Slum Clearance(Compensation) Act, 1956

This Act provides for compensation if necessary in respect of unfit houses subject to compulsory purchase, clearance, demolition or closing Orders, occupied by owners and purchased by them between 1st September, 1939, and 12th December, 1955.

One payment in respect of a house subject of a Demolition Order was made during the year.

It seems likely that this Act will add considerably to the cost of slum clearance but in so doing will relieve much hardship and related anxiety from the minds of those who were forced to pay excessive prices during the war and post war years in order to obtain a house of any kind.



## Rent Act, 1957

This Act came into force on 6th July and at the end of the year 112 applications for disrepair certificates had been investigated and reported upon. The position with respect to applications and progress up to 31st December was as follows:—

Number of applications	... ..	142
Number of applications withdrawn	... ..	7
Number of Notices of Intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair	... ..	111
Number of undertakings given by landlords	...	49
Number of Certificates of Disrepair in respect of all defects alleged by tenant, issued	... ..	2
Number of Certificates of Disrepair in respect of some only of defects alleged by tenant, issued		3

## Housing Act, 1949

### Improvement Grants

Local authorities may, subject to certain conditions, make grants for house improvement such as the provision of bathrooms, internal toilets, hot water supply, food storage and other modern conveniences.

The administrative work in connection with applications is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's and Town Clerk's Departments and the following information was supplied by them:—

Applications received	... ..	53
Applications approved	... ..	47
Applications refused	... ..	4

The average amount paid by way of Grant in these cases was £104 0s. 0d.

Of the 47 approved applications, owner occupiers accounted for 46. The reluctance on the part of owners of tenanted houses to apply for grants to modernise their property is disappointing. The reason may be, in part, lack of knowledge of the provisions of the Act but it is probable that the percentage increase allowed on the rent is not sufficiently attractive.

There is a growing need for much more reconditioning of structurally sound dwellings in order to prevent them from becoming the slums of the future. Local authorities are best able to plan this type of work alongside and in conjunction with their slum clearance programme.

## Inspections

The number of visits made in connection with the Housing Section's activities is shown in a table elsewhere, but it may be mentioned that they include 24 inspections of the tied cottages on the Sandwell Estate which is owned by the Corporation. One such cottage has been demolished.

The innumerable enquiries from tenants, landlords and prospective purchasers of houses in Clearance Areas and Proposed Clearance Areas cannot be shown in any statistics, but they do consume much time.

If the information given is to be reliable, it must be based on a sound knowledge of the Council's general policy and a detailed knowledge of the properties in the borough. The ideal basis for this information is a full survey of all dwellings in the borough. This would also reveal the extent of overcrowding and the types of houses required to relieve it.

Such a survey should be undertaken as soon as the necessary staff can be recruited.

# AIR AND FACTORY HYGIENE

A. GILPIN

J. PYE

S. DAVIES

*Specialist Inspectors*

## Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution

The year has been marked by vigorous activity in both the industrial and domestic spheres. As from 31st December, 1956, (the first appointed day), local authorities became responsible for the enforcement of Section 3 (Installations of New Furnaces), Section 10 (Heights of Chimneys), Section 11 (Offences in Smoke Control Areas), Section 18 (Colliery Spoilbanks) and Section 24 (Building Byelaws) of the Clean Air Act, 1956. Powers relating to dark smoke, grit and dust and smoke nuisances, will not come into operation until the middle of 1958. The main provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to smoke nuisances, are therefore still in force.

## Industrial Pollution

The work of investigating industrial nuisances has been supplemented by the examination of plans and specifications of new furnaces and boiler-plant. The requirements under the Act that new furnaces shall be capable of being operated continually without emitting smoke, when burning fuel of a type for which they were designed, introduces a principle of great importance. The provision covers industrial furnaces and other large furnaces, such as may be found in hotels and blocks of flats, but not small domestic appliances in houses, offices and shops.

It is an offence to install a new furnace without previously notifying the local authority. The submission of plans and specifications for approval by a local authority is, however, optional, as far as Section 3 is concerned. Every effort has been made to encourage such applications. The consideration of plans and specifications demands sound knowledge of fuel plant technology from the public health inspector and offers scope for the improvement of installations from a smoke-abatement standpoint. Firms have responded well to suggestions put forward.

The following Table gives some indication of the work which has been carried out in connection with industrial nuisances.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Nuisances</i>	<i>Result</i>
Foundry ... ..	Smoke from coal-fired vitreous enamelling furnace	Replaced by electric furnace
Foundry ... ..	Grit and dust from cupolas	Wet spray grit arresters installed
Spring Works ...	Smoke from coal-fired lead baths and tempering furnaces	Oil and gas-fired furnaces installed



<i>Premises</i>	<i>Nuisances</i>	<i>Result</i>
Cinema ... ..	Smoke emission from low chimney	Burning of refuse in central heating boiler prohibited
Foundry ... ..	Emission of fume from central casting unit	Height of metal stack increased
Foundry ... ..	Smoke and grit from cupola	Gas ignition equipment used for lighting-up. New grit arrester proposed.
Spring Works ...	Emissions from large oil cooling unit	Water sprays and baffles introduced. Nuisance abated
Foundry ... ..	Dust from burning of magnesium	Experiments being undertaken by firm
Bacon Curers ...	Smoke from temporary boiler	Advice given on hand-firing
Oil-blending Works	Smoke from heating of vats	Fuel to be protected against contamination by oil
Rolling Mill ...	Smoke from billet heating furnace	Abatement notice served
Timber Works ...	Sawdust escaping to atmosphere	Abated by means of structural works
Foundry ... ..	Burning of waste paper in yard	Prohibited
Steel Works ...	Emission from small oil-cooling unit	Abated by means of filters
Steel Works ...	Smoke from incinerator burning paint from dipping frames and other equipment	Firm experimenting with chemical paint stripper
Land at rear of Gas Works ...	Dust from excavations	Work restricted to favourable weather conditions
Foundry Lorries ...	Grit and dust blown from lorries passing through town.	Employing firm requests that employees not using tarpaulins provided be reported
Foundry ... ..	Effluvia from drying plant	Height of stack raised
Metal Works ...	Smoke emission from vertical boiler	Advice given on care and operation of mechanical underfeed stoker
Foundry ... ..	Burning of waste materials	Prohibited
Foundry ... ..	Grit from cupolas	Grit arrester fitted
Tube Works ...	Smoke emission from furnace	Electric furnace installed
Foundry ... ..	Grit from cupolas	Grit arrester fitted

In addition to the above a large number of industrial pollution problems are being investigated and discussed with the firms concerned.

## Domestic Pollution

On 7th March, 1957, the Town Council made an Order entitled the County Borough of West Bromwich Smoke Control Order No. 1, 1957, declaring a central area of the town to be a Smoke Control Area. This Order, the first to be made under the Clean Air Act, 1956, was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. Despite careful and patient preparatory works, 27 appeals were made by householders. No appeals were received from the occupiers of commercial or industrial premises, despite the fact that conversions in such premises do not qualify for financial assistance from the Corporation.

A public local Inquiry was held in West Bromwich on 28th May by the Minister's Inspector, Mr. S. J. Docking. At the Inquiry it was stressed on behalf of the Council that West Bromwich was in the middle of one of the "black areas" mentioned in the report of the Committee on Air Pollution. The area was in the centre of the town and included the Town Hall and other Council buildings, Law Courts, Baths, the Technical College, Grammar School, District Hospital, industrial and commercial premises, and about 190 houses and flats. The Council thought it right that their own buildings should be dealt with in the first Order — they would thus set an example — and they intended to establish other Smoke Control Areas later by extending the area now proposed. Within the area *all* smoke from *all* buildings would be prohibited.

The Council were very concerned about industrial smoke and believed that it would be materially reduced as a result of the Clean Air Act. They were anxious, however, to secure a reduction from domestic premises as well. They recognised that railway smoke in the area was troublesome, but in their opinion it was not a major source of air pollution in the locality. Section 19 of the Clean Air Act when operative would provide for closer control of smoke from engines.

A representative of the British Transport Commission, giving evidence, said that the Commission's policy was to replace steam traction ultimately by electric tractions, and in the meantime by diesel trains. After September, twenty-five per cent. of all passenger trains running through West Bromwich and sixteen per cent. of all trains would be diesels. Goods trains would get diesel locomotives later.

A representative of the West Midlands Gas Board, giving evidence in support of the Council, stated that the Board were satisfied that coke and gas would provide a satisfactory smokeless heating service; that there were adequate supplies of properly graded coke of satisfactory quality and ample supplies of gas to meet all requirements in the area.



It was stated for the Council that in the payment of grant for new appliances the policy outlined in the Ministry's Memorandum on Smoke Control Areas would be followed. The Council had a discretionary power to pay more than the standard grant of 70% and any special cases would be sympathetically considered. The Council appreciated that downdraught caused difficulties in some of the houses in the area. Coke fumes were no more irritant or dangerous than coal smoke, and could not, in their view, make matters worse.

On behalf of the objectors it was argued that the Smoke Control Order was precipitate and ill-conceived; the area was dominated by the railway and householders ought not to be required to eliminate domestic smoke when they would still suffer the major nuisance of railway smoke. Further, the area covered by the Order was on the edge of one of the industrial parts of the Borough. It suffered, and would probably continue to suffer, from smoke from the factories, as well as diesel fumes from the numerous heavy road vehicles passing through the area. It was stated that the problem of downdraught was particularly serious in Edward Street because of the height of the Technical College to the North-east. Although downdraught occurred already with coal fires, there was more danger with coke because the fumes would be invisible. People living in Edward Street would have no option but to use gas or electricity.

After due consideration of all the circumstances, the Minister decided to confirm the Smoke Control Order, subject to the modification that the date of operation of the Order be postponed until 1st November, 1958. This modification allows ample time for alteration to appliances to be completed in the most satisfactory manner; and defers the operation of the Order until after the provisions of the Clean Air Act for the control of smoke from industry and from the railways are fully in force.

## Clean Air Council

This Council, known as the West Bromwich Clean Air Council, has the following aims and objects:—

- (a) To foster an interest in the abatement and prevention of air pollution among employers and employees in local industries and among residents in the borough.
- (b) To consider special difficulties experienced by manufacturers and residents in regard to the abatement and prevention of smoke emissions, such as fuel problems and problems regarding plant and equipment.
- (c) To consider special difficulties arising from the establishment and extension of smoke control areas.
- (d) To consider new developments in technique in relation to fuel consumption and smoke prevention.



(e) To stimulate an exchange of opinions between the Corporation, manufacturers and public bodies.

(f) To report and make appropriate recommendations to the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee of West Bromwich Corporation upon matters relating to smoke abatement and air pollution.

The membership is drawn from West Bromwich Corporation, West Bromwich, Smethwick and District Manufacturers' Association, the Nationalised Industries, the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, H.M. Alkali Inspectorate, The Coal Utilisation Council, and the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation, together with representatives of the special industries in the Borough such as the ferrous and non-ferrous foundries, other metal industries and brickworks. There is power to co-opt any additional representatives who may be able to help the Council in its work. A sub-committee of residents from the smoke control area has already been formed.

The inaugural meeting of the Council was held in the Town Hall, West Bromwich, on Friday, 22nd February, 1957. After an official welcome by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman J. W. Banks, J.P., Councillor F. G. Phillips was elected Chairman and Captain D. W. Shirlaw as Vice-chairman. The business of the meeting was followed by an address by Mr. W. J. Sparkes, B.Sc., A.M.I.Mech.E., Principal Scientific Officer of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, on the subject "Some Practical Aspects of the Clean Air Act." A stimulating discussion followed among the 31 persons present.

The second meeting was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 30th October, 1957. Following an official welcome by His Worship the Mayor (Alderman F. Leeson, J.P.), the Chairman, Councillor F. G. Phillips, then introduced Dr. R. J. Sarjant, O.B.E., Professor Emeritus of Sheffield University, who addressed the meeting on the subject "Clean Air and Industrial Dust." The discussion which followed among the 58 persons present was most lively and on a high technical level.

## Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution

The recording of atmospheric pollution in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was continued during the year, four deposit gauges for the collection of deposited matter and nine lead peroxide gauges for determining the amount of Sulphur Trioxide in the atmosphere being employed. During the closing months of the year, volumetric apparatus for the daily measurement of smoke and sulphur was being erected.

## Deposit Gauges

The following Table gives the monthly recordings of the deposit gauges, showing the deposited matter in tons per square mile:—

Month			Highfields	Geo. Salter School	M.E.B.	Isolation Hospital
January	...	...	8.80	12.20	13.93	6.33
February	...	...	6.50	12.14	20.97	12.30
March	...	...	9.80	16.13	22.02	12.40
April	...	...	7.11	17.58	22.69	8.21
May	...	...	12.07	22.42	15.75	11.29
June	...	...	6.87	14.50	11.84	10.85
July	...	...	9.49	14.92	18.98	9.03
August	...	...	15.48	16.98	20.19	15.86
September	...	...	8.35	19.57	5.98	13.27
October	...	...	8.32	14.81	—	8.05
November	...	...	3.95	8.55	9.09	4.43
December	...	...	12.10	14.23	20.78	12.85
			108.84	184.03	153.22	124.87
MONTHLY AVERAGES						
1949	...	...	—	20.09	24.80	16.37
1950	...	...	—	20.23	23.83	15.36
1951	...	...	—	20.84	22.69	16.15
1952	...	...	—	22.12	15.91	13.82
1953	...	...	16.07	15.43	18.83	14.42
1954	...	...	22.97	26.39	24.70	18.54
1955	...	...	18.50	18.59	16.70	14.65
1956	...	...	14.91	15.64	20.77	10.39
1957	...	...	9.07	15.33	13.93	10.40

The above gauges have been in operation for nine years and the average readings for the whole of the Borough during that period are as follows, expressed in tons per square mile per month :—

1949	...	20.56	1950	...	19.80
1951	...	20.01	1952	...	18.52
1953	...	16.19	1954	...	23.15
1955	...	17.11	1956	...	15.43
		1957	...	12.18	

The results of the analyses of the deposited matter during the year shows a small decrease in the level of the pollution compared with the previous year. The general level of pollution is some 6.67 tons per square mile per month lower than the average for the previous eight years.

We can therefore say that the annual deposit of soot, ash, grit and gritty particles in 1957 is about 100 tons less than in 1949 when records were first kept.

# Lead Peroxide Instruments

The weight of Sulphur Trioxide (SO<sub>3</sub>) collected in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day is given in the following Table :—

Month	Highfields	G. Salter School	M.E.B.	Hill Top Park	Heath Lane	Ray Hall	Red House Park	Kenrick Park	Dartmouth Park
January ...	2.37	1.99	3.52	1.59	2.69	1.86	1.31	3.62	2.92
February ...	2.63	2.30	3.79	1.97	3.15	2.19	1.56	4.32	3.06
March ...	1.98	2.19	2.83	1.88	2.26	1.85	1.31	3.58	2.19
April ...	1.58	1.61	1.95	1.05	1.64	1.17	1.14	1.92	1.74
May ...	0.69	0.91	1.08	0.46	0.80	0.70	0.56	1.13	0.93
June ...	1.42	1.74	2.06	0.99	1.27	1.18	0.96	2.22	1.65
July ...	1.49	1.17	1.86	0.70	0.86	0.72	0.64	1.61	1.15
August ...	0.72	1.04	1.51	0.78	0.96	0.67	0.84	1.86	1.30
September ...	0.89	1.62	2.32	0.98	1.55	0.93	0.73	2.56	1.67
October ...	1.67	1.62	3.04	1.05	2.41	1.30	1.30	3.32	2.11
November ...	2.88	2.55	3.44	1.67	2.48	1.89	1.89	3.56	3.43
December ...	2.46	2.32	3.60	1.84	2.93	1.55	1.87	3.50	3.01
MONTHLY AVERAGES									
1949 ...	—	1.82	2.10	—	1.87	1.49	1.20	2.51	—
1950 ...	—	1.86	2.12	—	2.09	1.52	1.22	2.39	—
1951 ...	—	1.80	1.83	—	1.93	1.45	1.14	2.46	—
1952 ...	—	1.64	1.87	—	1.84	1.34	1.11	2.23	—
1953 ...	1.57	1.57	2.08	—	1.99	1.35	1.14	2.47	—
1954 ...	1.73	1.62	2.31	1.20	1.94	1.28	1.17	2.75	1.97
1955 ...	1.76	1.88	2.32	1.45	1.85	1.46	1.33	2.44	2.16
1956 ...	1.40	2.08	2.60	1.60	2.03	1.52	1.20	2.85	2.43
1957 ...	2.56	1.75	2.58	1.24	1.91	1.33	1.17	2.76	2.09

The average for successive years for the whole of the town expressed in milligrams per 100 sq. centimetres per day was :—

1949 ...	1.84	1954 ...	1.77
1950 ...	1.86	1955 ...	1.85
1951 ...	1.73	1956 ...	1.97
1952 ...	1.63	1957 ...	1.45
1953 ...	1.72		

The average amount of sulphur pollution was slightly lower than previous years.



## Emission of Zinc Oxide

The measurement of Zinc Oxide emission from a factory dealing with non-ferrous metals was carried on throughout the year :—

Month		Deposits in pounds per acre		
		Gauge 1	Gauge 2	Gauge 3
January	...	3.514	1.406	2.811
February	...	2.460	2.460	4.744
March	...	5.798	2.636	2.284
April	...	1.581	1.933	0.176
May	...	7.379	6.839	1.757
June	...	1.406	0.527	1.230
July	...	2.460	0.176	3.162
August	...	2.987	0.527	3.690
September	...	2.811	1.230	5.929
October	...	2.108	2.108	5.271
November	...	1.054	1.054	0.878
December	...	0.879	0.351	4.920

Gauge 1 — situated in house garden (nearest the works).

Gauge 2 — situated in house garden (middle distance).

Gauge 3 — situated at school (Standard deposit gauge)  
(farthest point down wind).

On the whole, the ‘ fall-out ’ from the works remains at a satisfactorily low level. The results of the analyses were sent regularly to the management of the firm concerned and were received and followed with the closest interest.

## Chemical Works

Analyses of the deposits in a gauge placed in a garden adjoining a works manufacturing hydrofluoric acid was continued during the year.

The average amount of fluorine deposited was 8.84 parts per million, the highest amount recorded being 16.8 parts per million. The pH value of the deposit varied from 2.30 to 5.94.

The results of the analyses were communicated to H.M. Alkali Works Inspector and the management of the firm concerned.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### Factories, Factories (No mechanical power) and Workplaces

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health, made by the Public Health Inspector.

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>	<i>Number of written notices</i>	<i>Number of occupiers prosecuted</i>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	—	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	470	23	9	—
3. Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers premises)	9	—	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

<i>Contravention</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Referred by H.M. Inspector</i>
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—				
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	6	—	7
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	—	—	2
(d) Absence of artificial lighting	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	9	6	—	9

### Alkali, etc., Works Regulations Act

The following is a list of Registered Processes in the Borough, control of the emission of noxious gases and fumes arising therefrom being the responsibility of the Alkali Inspectorate.

R. Cruickshank Limited	Chemical manufacturers
West Bromwich (Swan Village) Works, West Midlands Gas Board	Town's gas, coke and by-products
Drywite Limited	Chemical manufacturers
Midland Tar Distillers Ltd.	Tar distillers
W. H. Keys, Ltd., Hall End Works	Bitumen, asphalt and paint manufacturers
Robinson Bros. Ltd.	Chemical manufacturers

# FOOD HYGIENE AND CONTROL

J. G. KELLY

N. H. OWEN

*Specialist Inspectors*

This important sphere of the public health inspector's work deserves the fullest attention, and in a town the size of West Bromwich where a large variety of foodstuffs is manufactured and sold, and a considerable volume of slaughtering is carried on, specialisation is found to be essential.

Food legislation lays down fundamental obligations of those connected with the industry, as regards both the handling and the quality of food, but it is unfortunate that interpretation of certain of the simpler requirements, so obvious to the public in general, have led to enforcement difficulties in various parts of the country. However, the meat and food inspection service; the hygiene of food premises and food handlers; and the control of the compositional and bacteriological quality of food, are a responsibility requiring patience, a flair for education, speed of action and, not least, organisation.

## Food Hygiene

With a staff vacancy outstanding from 1956 virtually unfilled until late in the year, the major part of the work concerned meat inspection at the nine slaughterhouses. Nevertheless, many improvements were carried out at food premises in the comparatively small amount of time available to be devoted to this work. When the second Specialist Inspector for Food Inspection and Food Hygiene was appointed, it was possible to bring the work of meat inspection within reasonable hours and devote more time to food hygiene.

During the year an informal talk was given to members of the Hateley Heath Conservative and Unionist Association on our duties concerning food control, and a considerable interest was shown particularly regarding the 'morbid' specimens displayed. It is unfortunate that so few invitations of this kind are forthcoming for it is often so obvious that members of the public do not realise the protection which is afforded to them by their local Public Health Inspectors.

The table below gives a summary of the food premises with which the department is concerned:—

### Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16

Sausage manufacturers	...	...	...	9
Cooked meats, pie, etc., manufacturers	...	...	...	11
Ice Cream manufacturers	...	...	...	5
Pickle manufacturer	...	...	...	1
Fish Friers	...	...	...	94
Ice Cream retailers	...	...	...	267



## Food Premises in the Area

Slaughterhouses (including bacon factories) ...	10
Butchers' shops ... ..	77
Grocers' shops ... ..	115
Greengrocers' shops ... ..	65
Confectioners (including sugar confectioners)	80
Fishmongers ... ..	14
Cafes, Restaurants, etc. ... ..	64
Licensed houses ... ..	177
Outdoor beer licenses ... ..	30
Sweet confectionery manufacturers ... ..	2
Bakehouses ... ..	17
Ice lolly manufacturers ... ..	2
Aerated water manufacturers ... ..	6
Brewers and bottlers of beer ... ..	2
Wholesale grocers and provision warehouses	6
General dealers ... ..	184
Synthetic cream manufacturer ... ..	1

## Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

There are ten slaughterhouses in the Borough licensed under Section 62 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. One licensed slaughterhouse is not in use and of the remaining nine, three are bacon factories. Meat inspection is carried out at all establishments in operation.

In January, the Council adopted new Byelaws for private slaughterhouses, which it was hoped would go some way to improve conditions at these premises generally, but as time went on the shadow of proposed new legislation in the form of the Slaughterhouse Bill and draft Regulations for the Hygienic Construction of Slaughterhouses, reduced to some extent their effect. It was felt that any structural alterations deemed necessary should be postponed until the new requirements were made known.

The proposed legislation, now before Parliament, sets out to change radically the present law on the subject, and for a specified period allows freedom of construction of slaughterhouses conforming to the new standards. Existing premises will have to be brought up to this standard within a prescribed time, after which the local authority must assess the slaughtering needs of its area and submit a scheme to the Minister. Thereafter no additional premises will be licensed except with the consent of the Minister. The trade has been kept informed on these matters and many occupiers of slaughterhouses are making plans to meet the proposed requirements.

It has been estimated roughly that some 70% of the home-killed meat consumed in West Bromwich comes from outside the Borough, which from a perusal of the total slaughtering figures appears illogical, but it must be borne in mind that a considerable proportion of the pigs slaughtered at the bacon factories in the Borough are 'exported' in the form of bacon and other pork products. In view

of this 'export meat' a claim for Exchequer Grant towards the cost of the Meat Inspection Service was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It is worthy of note that during the year 98.3% of the animals slaughtered were inspected, the remaining 1.7% refers only to lambs, normally free from disease, slaughtered either late at night or during weekends.

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	2,424	51	101	12,000 (approx.)	59,342
Number inspected ... ..	2,424	51	101	10,744	59,342
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	47
Parts or organs ... ..	201	20	—	70	8,139
Percentage affected ... ..	8.33	39.21	—	0.65	13.79
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	9
Parts or organs ... ..	52	7	—	—	1,427
Percentage affected ... ..	2.18	13.73	—	—	2.41
CYSTICERUS BOVIS:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses subject to refrigera- tion ... ..	3	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected ... ..	0.12	—	—	—	—

It will be seen from the above table that the quality of food animals slaughtered remains at a high level. Tubercular infection is still on the decline as the following figures show:—

### Percentage of Food Animals affected with Tuberculosis

	1955	1956	1957
Cattle (excluding cows) ...	3.90	2.62	2.18
Cows ... ..	20.95	30.76	13.73
Calves ... ..	—	—	—
Pigs ... ..	3.34	2.48	2.41

Regarding diseases other than tuberculosis, about one third were found to be of parasitic origin and localised in character. The following table lists the principal diseases and conditions responsible for condemnations:—

### PRINCIPAL DISEASES AND CONDITIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDEMNATIONS

	Weight
Abscesses and septic wounds ... ..	2,569
Actinomycosis ... ..	347
Arthritis ... ..	905
Bruising and injuries ... ..	365
Cirrhosis ... ..	2,089
Congestion ... ..	799
Cysticercus bovis ... ..	49
Erysipelas, Acute Swine ... ..	717
Fascioliasis ... ..	873
Fatty change ... ..	507
Fever, Acute ... ..	1,676
Gangrene ... ..	140
Hydronephrosis ... ..	48
Hepatitis ... ..	169
Inflammation of serous and mucous membranes	9,012
Jaundice ... ..	438
Malformations ... ..	96
Malnutrition ... ..	147
Oedema and Emaciation ... ..	270
Parasitic conditions ... ..	5,801
Pneumonia ... ..	3,263
Pneumonia, Pleurisy, etc., Acute Septic ...	1,369
Pyæmia ... ..	217
Skin conditions ... ..	163
Telangiectasis ... ..	15
Tuberculosis ... ..	19,001
Uraemia ... ..	68
Other diseases and conditions ... ..	219
Nephritis ... ..	20
	<hr/>
	51,352 lbs.
	<hr/>

### CLASSIFICATION AND WEIGHTS OF FOOD CONDEMNED

The inspection of food, other than meat, at food factories, wholesale and retail food premises occupied much of the inspectors' time. The following table gives the classification and weights of food condemned:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Carcase meat and offal	22	18	2	0		22	18	2	0
Tinned Goods ...	1	5	3	14	}	1	8	1	10
Cheese ... ..		2	1	24					
	Total					24	6	3	10



Method of Disposal of Condemned Food

All meat condemned by the food inspectors is stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation, at the source, and disposed of by the individual butchers concerned to approved collectors.

Other foods such as tinned goods, etc., are burned or otherwise destroyed at our Black Lake refuse and salvage depot.

Compositional and Bacteriological Control of Food

Milk Supply

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54.

The number of dealers registered under the above regulations during the year was 12.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-53

A total of 193 dealers of whom 171 are small shopkeepers are licensed under these Regulations. Of the remainder, eight are dairy companies from neighbouring towns, holding supplementary licences in this area.

Chemical Analysis of Milk

Eighteen samples were taken for chemical analysis during the year and all were satisfactory. The Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939, lays down a presumptive standard for milk, i.e., Minimum Fat Content 3%; Solids not fat 8.5%.

The average fat content of these samples was 3.53% and the average solids not fat content 8.62%.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The examination of milk samples continues to be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birmingham. During the year a total of 47 samples were submitted for the Methylene Blue test, all of which were satisfactory.

Legal Proceedings under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Result</i>
Failure to ensure that a milk bottle was in a state of thorough cleanliness immediately before re-use.	Regulation 26(1) and Regulation 33	Distributors fined £10 with £5 special costs

Ice Cream

There are 25 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream for the purpose of sale, but of this number only five actually manufacture ice cream since the advent of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-51.

During the year nine applications were received for the registration of premises under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16, for the sale of ice cream, bringing the number of premises now registered to 267.

### Bacteriological Examination of Ice Cream

Thirty-one samples were taken for bacteriological examination and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham, the results were as follows:—

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III
30	1	nil

### Chemical Analysis of Ice Cream

Twenty informal samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. All were found to be well above the standard laid down in the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order.

### Bacteriological Examination of Ice Lollies

Five samples of ice lollies were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and results showed that B.coli was absent from all samples.

### Artificial Cream

There is only one premise registered for the manufacture of artificial cream.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

### Adulteration of Food and Drugs

During the year 155 samples of food and drugs comprising 18 formal and 137 informal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

The results of the analysis of these samples are given in the following table:—

		Samples Analysed		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		Milk	Other Foods	Milk	Other Foods	Milk	Other Foods
1st Quarter	...	5	31	5	29	—	2
2nd Quarter	...	5	40	5	38	—	2
3rd Quarter	...	5	26	5	25	—	1
4th Quarter	...	3	40	3	39	—	1
Total	...	18	137	18	131	—	6

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 3.8% compared with 2% in 1956. The following table summarises the adulterated or unsatisfactory samples of food and drugs enumerated above :—

Article	Nature or Extent of Adulteration	Remarks
Jellied Fruit Sample No. 2295 Informal	No pineapple present	Remainder of stock inspected and found to contain declared ingredient. Manufacturer warned
Pork Sausage Sample No. 2299 Informal	Contained sulphur dioxide not declared	Manufacturer warned — necessary declaration supplied and exhibited
Italian Apples Sample No. 2325 Informal	Contained slight excess of lead	Remainder of stock returned to wholesalers
Italian Apples Sample No. 2326 Informal	Contained slight excess of lead	Remainder of stock returned to wholesalers
Kilkof Sample No. 2379 Informal	Deficient of 36.51% of Chloroform	Manufacturer warned — stock withdrawn
Flour Sample No. 2412 Informal	Contained excess 39.9% Calcium Carbonate	Manufacturer warned — further samples will be taken.

### Legal Proceedings taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Nature of Complaint	Section	Result
Selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a scone not being of the quality of the article demanded	2	Manufacturers fined £10 with £4 4s. 0d. costs
Selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a pork pie not being of the quality of the article demanded	2	Vendor fined £15
Selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a cream gateau not being of the quality of the article demanded	2	Vendor fined £10
Selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a custard tart not being of the quality of the article demanded	2	Absolute discharge granted to manufacturers on payment of 19s. 0d. costs
Selling a custard tart unfit for human consumption	8	Manufacturers fined £25 with 15s. 0d. special costs

### Food Quality Control

It is realised that the number of samples taken during the year is too few for a population of over 93,000. It is hoped to improve this position in 1958.



# PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

S. CAYTON,

*Cleansing Superintendent.*

## The Collection of Refuse

The collection of household refuse is one of the most costly services operated by local authorities. Although circumstances and practices may vary greatly from one district or town to another, it is broadly true to say that 55% of the total is spent in labour costs and 35% on transport.

Most Urban authorities aim to provide a weekly collection as a minimum. Some provide a daily collection in central shopping areas and a few, who have persuaded their residents to bring out their own bins to the kerb-side, are able to collect all refuse daily. In West Bromwich some refuse is collected daily, some thrice weekly; the refuse from high flats, twice weekly and all other refuse once weekly. This standard has been sought after for a long time. It was achieved about the middle of the year and the total extra cost per house, shop or other building over the whole year was 5¼d. If householders would try to keep the bulk and weight to a minimum by composting their garden refuse and keeping paper, bottles and metals separate for salvage, it would be possible to improve the service still further.

## Dustless Collection

This ideal still eludes us. The total cost and the suitability of vehicles and equipment are a prominent consideration, but nevertheless, a neighbouring authority is to introduce a pilot scheme in 1958, using a specially designed vehicle. It may be that this will succeed and prove economical, but on the other hand the goal may not be reached until we devise a light non-returnable 'container' which can be closed and loaded direct into the collecting vehicle. For premises such as hospitals, schools, flats and hotels, the bulk container with its special vehicle achieves dustless loading and mechanical handling, except for the manipulation of a special truck to take the container to the vehicle. Its size makes it unsuitable for dwelling houses but very successful where eight or more bins are filled weekly.





With this machine a driver and one loader can empty about forty containers per day according to their location and convenience of access. The capacity of the container is about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cubic yards. For bonus purposes they are assumed to average eight bins each.

Whatever method is ultimately devised there is no doubt that dustless refuse collection follows as logically from our clean air programme as no smoke from refuse disposal works.

### **Absence from Work**

Since the cost of labour is so great a part of the total cost of refuse collection, it is necessary, if the service is to be regular at all times and in all weathers, to make adequate allowance for absences. These must, of course, be kept to a minimum by recording, checking and enquiry. Genuine sickness is always treated sympathetically but casual absence calls for a firm rebuke before it becomes a habit.



The following figures have been abstracted in the months shown and recorded in the way recommended by the British Institute of Management in their pamphlet entitled "Absence from Work." The last two weeks of the year tell their own story.

### INCIDENCE OF ABSENTEEISM — FOURTH QUARTER, 1957

	4 weeks ending 25.10.57	4 weeks ending 23.11.57	3 weeks ending 14.12.57	2 weeks ending 28.12.57
Average strength per week ...	73.5	72	74.7	73.5
Total number of separate absences	37 (26 men)	30 (21 men)	36 (21 men)	13 (11 men)
Frequency Rate ...	50.34%	41.66%	48.19%	20.45%
Total man/hours required ...	12,936	12,672	9,660	6,568
Total man/hours lost	1,901	1,046 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,383	505
Absence Rate:				
Hours lost through sickness ...	1,129 or 8.73%	620 $\frac{1}{4}$ or 4.89%	828 or 8.57%	264 or 4.01%
Hours lost through accidents ...	96 or .74%	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hours lost for other reasons ...	676 or 5.22%	426 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 3.37%	555 or 5.74%	241 or 3.66%
Total ...	14.69%	8.26%	14.31%	7.67%
Total overtime worked	228 $\frac{3}{4}$	186	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	75

### Incentive Bonuses Salvage

A bonus scheme to encourage the collection of salvage was introduced in 1956. It was considered advantageous to the authority to dispose of as much saleable material as possible, partly for its intrinsic worth in the open market and partly because it was so much less tonnage for which a disposal place had to be found. Collection by trailer was arranged, which added 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  cubic yards to the carrying capacity of the vehicles. All that was required of the collectors was to put paper and any other saleable material into the trailer instead of the body of the refuse vehicle. Consequently, the vehicle and trailer could take refuse from considerably more houses than could the vehicle alone.

To encourage this operation the following salvage bonus scheme was introduced:—



## Paper

Target 40 tons per month sold (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton per 1,000 when fixed) — 40% of all sales above this weight shared amongst all collectors, depot and tipworkers.

## All other Materials

No target weight.

40% of all sales shared as for paper.

Average earnings over 12 months = £24 2s. 0d. each man.

Total shared = £1,941 12s. 6d.

## Bins Emptied

A bonus system based on the number of bins emptied each day by each refuse collector is now in operation in most parts of the town and it is hoped to extend it to all districts.

The system is working smoothly and has done much to improve collection and maintain a regular weekly frequency. The output of work per man has improved too and consequently and quite properly so have earnings.

## Disposal of Refuse

The disposal of domestic, commercial and industrial refuse is an ever present and growing problem in all built up areas. In West Bromwich we are fortunate in still having some land which can be reclaimed by controlled tipping. The area and capacity of such land is diminishing and such sites as remain are tending to be less conveniently situated and more difficult of access.

The decision to culvert the Hobnail Brook is therefore very welcome as it will enable tipping to continue over a greater area at an advantageous depth.

The alternative may be a separation and incineration plant which would require a substantial capital outlay and might even then leave more than half the refuse to be tipped in the form of dust and clinker.

A more satisfactory method may, in the future, prove to be disposal by controlled tipping at a distant disposal point with our present depot serving as a transfer station where all refuse would be emptied from the collecting vehicles into large capacity road vehicles and taken to a distant disposal point, possibly one used jointly by several authorities.

Where a system such as this has already been forced upon local authorities the cost of refuse disposal has risen threefold. Surely a sufficient warning against the prodigal filling of land and one which prompts us to look closely at every possible disposal point before allowing it to pass into other ownership.

## Public Conveniences

The Committee has been successful in finding a suitable site in the Birmingham Road area for a building which will include all toilet facilities for both men and women. This is a continuation of their policy of replacement of obsolete and worn out urinals in odd corners, with modern conveniences suitable for the resident population, football fans supporting visiting teams, the travelling public and itinerant traders, particularly those handling food.

It is hoped that the new building will be ready for use in 1959.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

### Equipment

#### (a) COLLECTION VEHICLES

At the end of the year our vehicle fleet was as under :—

- 8 Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping Freighters (including 2 bulk loaders) — capacity 16/18 cubic yards.
- 3 Side loading bodies converted from Lewin Compressing vehicles — capacity 10 cubic yards.
- 3 Eagle body side loading vehicles — capacity 7 cubic yards.
- 1 Eagle body side loading vehicle for trade refuse collection.
- 1 Commer “Superpoise” van for salvage collection.
- 1 Austin 25 cwt. 3-way loader for salvage collection.
- 1 Vacuum pump for cesspool emptying.
- 2 Vans — 5 cwts. and 10 cwts — for district supervision.
- 10 4½ cubic yard salvage trailers.

The total mileage covered by the department's vehicles during 1957 was 124,511, an increase of 4,926. This increase is accounted for largely by improved frequency of collection.

#### (b) DISPOSAL PLANT

- 1 H.T.4 Caterpillar shovel placed in service July, 1955.

#### (c) BLACK LAKE DEPOT

Powell continuous paper baling press — placed in service November, 1955.

Petri-McNaught tin baling press — placed in service January, 1956.

Lister Power Loader — placed in service February, 1956.

Salvage sorting conveyor — placed in service May, 1956.

Dust extraction plant to paper baling press and salvage sorting conveyor — placed in service February, 1956.

### Provision of Dustbins

The replacement of worn and unserviceable bins continues as a rate charge and the following table shows the number of bins issued per year since the inception of the scheme :—

1951	...	1,514	1955	...	3,071
1952	...	1,856	1956	...	2,856
1953	...	3,325	1957	...	2,664
1954	...	2,532			

The total of the above issues amounts to 17,818.

The bin size, but not its weight, has been increased from 2½ to 3¼ cubic feet to better contain the increasing bulk of house refuse arising from the changing pattern of living particularly as regards increased use of packaging and the effect of Smoke Control.

### Cesspools

There still remain 46 cesspools in the borough all of which are regularly cleansed.



### House Refuse Collection and Disposal

Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	...	...	28,529
Total number of loads of refuse collected			12,540
Total tonnage of refuse collected (estimated)	...	...	28,870
Total tonnage collected from cesspools	...		1,568
Gross cost of collection	...	...	£58,829
Gross cost of disposal	...	...	£9,192
Gross cost per ton of collection	...	£2	0s. 9.05d.
Gross cost per ton of disposal	...		6s. 4.41d.
Gross cost of collection and disposal per ton	...	£2	7s. 1.46d.
Nett cost of collection and disposal per ton		£2	0s. 7.78d.
Nett cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 population	...	£630	18s. 8.51d.
Nett cost of collection and disposal from each premise per annum	...	£2	1s. 1.62d.

### Output of Refuse per annum (excluding cesspool contents)

Output	1954	1955	1956	1957
Per 1,000 of population	352.85 tons	330.26 tons	336.707 tons	310.43 tons
Per house	24 cwts.	22.02 cwts.	21.83 cwts.	20.23 cwts.

### Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and the income received is as follows :—

Waste paper	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
(various grades)	805	15	1	0	6,847	13	5
Baled Ferrous Scrap	155	4	2	7	1,246	17	0
Black Scrap	13	16	3	14	73	12	10
Non-Ferrous Scrap		15	1	0	60	6	3
Textiles	12	18	2	14	184	10	8
String		6	1	0	1	5	0
	988	16	3	7	£8,414	5	2

The total of salvage collected and income received from 1947 to 1957 was as under :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
1947	1,415	13	2	0	4,596	15	1
1948	1,383	16	1	0	4,894	0	2
1949	1,139	11	2	0	4,622	15	6
1950	880	9	1	0	3,168	4	6
1951	1,029	1	2	22	8,030	9	3
1952	1,084	1	1	14	6,784	16	6
1953	773	19	2	17	3,947	19	10
1954	389	0	0	0	2,530	17	9
1955	444	6	2	0	3,657	4	7
1956	838	7	0	26	7,154	8	0
1957	988	16	3	7	8,414	5	2
	10,367	3	3	2	£57,801	16	4



